

E. Bay murderer's sentencing delayed
 Brian Misquez, who killed gay man he
 met over Internet, to seek a new trial.
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Summer in D.C.
 Diverse capital city
 reaches out to gays.
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Gay novel meets on stage
 NCTC presents Downing's
 'Breakfast with Scot.'
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

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Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971



Jane Philomen Cleland

Summer of love, 2004

Same-sex couple Stuart Gaffney, left, and John Lewis joined Georgia Kollas and Willi Wilkinson at the Gay Asian Pacific Alliance's "Summer of Love 2004" celebration of same-sex marriage Sunday, August 8 in Larsen Park in the Sunset District. Gaffney, a biracial gay man, said his parents understand marriage discrimination. The event, attended by hundreds of people, was a response to an antigay marriage rally that took place at the park earlier this year and was cosponsored by numerous local organizations. In other gay marriage news, the California Supreme Court is expected to issue its decision on San Francisco's same-sex marriages today (Thursday, August 12) at 10 a.m.

Oakland picks up where East Bay Pride left off

by Zak Szymanski

The short version of what's happening with this year's LGBT Pride events in the East Bay is as follows: East Bay Pride, the official Pride celebration that centered around Oakland, is on hiatus this year. East Bay Pride founder and president Pete King, who also directs the non-profit organization of the same name, said that funding snafus with the city of Oakland, combined with "exhaustion," has caused him and his board to take at least a year off from the production.

King is now in the midst of staging the first "Harrison" street fair this Sunday, August 15 in San Francisco. The event, along with other festivities that begin tonight (Thursday, August 12) caters to the bear community [see story, page 19.]

Numerous LGBT Pride related gatherings and activities, however, are planned for the East Bay. Oakland Pride, as community leaders have unofficially titled the reorganized effort, is indeed happening, with events scheduled—**page 18** ▶



Jane Philomen Cleland

Scenes like this giant rainbow flag hanging in Oakland's federal building during East Bay Pride '99 likely will be missing this year.

HRC does about-face on ENDA

by Zak Szymanski

A statement released last weekend that rapidly spread over the Internet sparked a virtual nationwide celebration by transgender activists and allies this week: the Human Rights Campaign, the country's largest gay rights lobbying organization, has adopted a policy to support a federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act that includes gender identity protections.

HRC has long been criticized for its lack of leadership on transgender issues, and it has previously refused to budge on ENDA, legislation originally written in 1994 to protect employees from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. Such legislation would not benefit transgenders or others whose presentations and expressions fail to conform to their perceived gender.

Years of activism from the transgender community was credited for HRC's abrupt reversal, and the group's
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San Francisco fire chief orders review of entrance exam

by Matthew S. Bajko

San Francisco's fire chief has ordered the department's human resources staff to investigate allegations that the entrance exam given to new recruits discriminates against gay men.

Chief Joanne Hayes-White, the first woman to oversee a major city's fire department, made the request last Thursday after a *Bay Area Reporter* article disclosed a gay sheriff's deputy has filed numerous complaints with city and state agencies claiming questions on the exam are purposefully meant to weed out gay applicants.

In an hour-long interview Monday, August 9 in her South of Market office, Hayes-White said she instructed human resources staff to obtain a copy of the exam and an explanation from Dr. James Outtz as to why certain questions were asked of new recruits. The city paid Outtz close to \$500,000 to develop the fire department's personality inventory and job perception index.

"Last week I asked for a complete analysis from Dr. Outtz," said Hayes-White, who said as of this week she had yet to see the fire department's exam.

Hayes-White said she expects to conduct a cursory review of the exam within the next week to 10 days. After a more thorough re-



Marc Geller

San Francisco Fire Chief Joanne Hayes-White vows to examine fire exam flap.

view over the next 30 to 60 days, she said, "I will be voicing my opinion on what that test is like" as well as recommending possible changes to the exam.

In his complaints to fire and city officials, Jon Gray, who took the exam in October 2001, has questioned why he was asked if he liked to garden over doing yard work and if he liked reading poetry or the newspaper. Gray contends such questions have nothing to do with firefighting, and instead, are meant

to ferret out homosexuals.

"The civil service rules specifically state you are not allowed to ask gender-specific questions to applicants. This is in direct violation of the civil service rules," said Gray.

Gray called Hayes-White's decision "lip service." He had written her a letter addressing his concerns earlier this spring and in her response, the chief did not say she would take any action in the matter.

"I think it is lip service. I really don't think anything is going to happen from it. It is all
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Art for TARC



At an August 5 reception to publicize its upcoming fall fundraiser, the Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center featured artwork by Jim Winters, right. Joining in the fun at last week's reception at the Shooting Gallery were TARC Executive Director Tracy Brown, left, with Juanita More! and Glamamore. Winters's exhibit "Juanita More! & Glamamore: Live and in Drag" is part of his "Fabulous Nobodies" series.

Ex-gay minister preaches in Dolores Park

by Matthew S. Bajko

The flyers for Fiesta HispanoAmericana proclaimed everyone was welcome at Dolores Park last Saturday, August 7 for music, games, and clowns. But this wasn't the typical gathering at the park, which has hosted such LGBT events as the start of the Dyke March, the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence's Easter parties, and a rally for transgender rights the Friday night of Pride weekend.

The main draw for the fiesta was the "powerful testimony" of a man identified as Sidney, who lived under the control of "drugs, Satanism, and homosexual lifestyle." But, the flyers assured, "now he is living a happy life."



Sydney Reddy in Dolores Park

The man turned out to be Sidney Reddy, an evangelical minister from South Africa whose 45-minute talk fell short of the event's promotional material. Satanism was never mentioned, and as for his homosexual lifestyle, Reddy told the crowd of about 150 peo-

ple that God helped lead him to a heterosexual life.

Saying he was an activist in the HIV and AIDS program in his country, Reddy steered clear of any overt homophobic comments. Instead, he said he came to San Francisco to "preach and to testify about the goodness of Jesus Christ." He also said that he "did not come with a message of judgment. That is not what God taught me."

He asked the crowd, mainly Spanish-speaking congregants of the Association de Ministries de Evangelistas, to "feel for Africa because Africa needs your prayers."

He then launched into his life story, saying at 6 years old a man who lived in his neighborhood molested him sexually, and that at age 8 a woman in his barrio also abused him sexually.

"These sexual lessons shaped my life tendencies, one could call unnatural," said Reddy in English as another man translated into

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NEW!

LGBT candidates face off for city supervisor

by Zak Szymanski

They're off and running. About 100 candidates for San Francisco city supervisor filed their paperwork by the Department of Elections deadline on Friday, August 6 and it appears that the most interesting races also happen to feature queer candidates vying for the same office.

District 5 features at least 21 candidates looking to occupy the seat currently held by Board of Supervisors President Matt Gonzalez, who decided not to seek re-election. Several of the candidates are openly LGBT. While Gonzalez, a Green Party member, has endorsed his fellow Green and former mayoral campaign spokesman Ross Mirkarimi, most eyes are on progressive Democrat and longtime activist Robert Haaland, a transgender man, who is also running against Bill Barnes, a former aide to lefty Supervisor Chris Daly, and an HIV-positive African American gay man. Barnes has resigned from Daly's office to run his campaign. (Technically, the last day to file for District 5 was Wednesday, August 11, after the *Bay Area Reporter* went to press, because the incumbent is not running.)

District 9, meanwhile, features incumbent Supervisor Tom Ammiano seeking re-election, with



District 5 candidates Bill Barnes, left, and Robert Haaland.

six opponents including lesbian Lucrecia Bermudez, and the openly gay Latino candidate Miguel Bustos, who has made considerable progress in the race, giving Ammiano some competition in LGBT circles.

Bustos secured the political action committee endorsement from the Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club, which makes him "proud," he said. Yet in a rare turn of events, at the Alice Club endorsement meeting on Monday, August 9, the general membership rejected the PAC recommendation and reportedly came

within a few votes of endorsing Ammiano. With no candidate securing the necessary 60 percent support, however, the Alice Club could make no endorsement in the District 9 race. Bustos, running as the more moderate candidate in the race, has secured endorsements from a variety of people in the neighborhood, which he says speaks volumes about why he should be elected to represent the district. Ammiano, meanwhile, has earned the endorsement of hundreds of groups and individuals, including

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AUGUST 21
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Big Rock Area, Lake Temescal, 6500 Broadway
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AUGUST 21
8 P.M.

5TH ANNUAL INVITATIONAL PRIDE CONCERT
Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church, 3534 Lakeshore Ave.
www.oegbmc.org or 800.706.2389

AUGUST 22
3:30 P.M.

MONTCLAIR WOMEN'S BIG BAND CONCERT
Montclair Women's Cultural Arts Club, 1650 Mountain Blvd.
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10 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.

3RD ANNUAL SISTAS STEPPIN' IN PRIDE
Snow Park, 19th & Harrison Streets
www.sistassteppin.org or 510.551.8330

OCTOBER 10
3 - 7 P.M.

OUT IN OAKLAND!
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For additional Pride events in the East Bay, check out www.eastbayvoice.org

Oakland Pride Celebrations calendar published by the City of Oakland and SBC.






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News in brief

compiled by Cynthia Laird

B.A.R. nominated for Puppies

The Bay Area Reporter has been nominated for two awards—including "Best Print Weekly"—in the eighth annual Puppies Media Excellence Awards sponsored by the San Francisco Bay Area Publicity Club.

B.A.R. assistant editor Matthew S. Bajko was also nominated as "Best Print Reporter" for his coverage on the historic San Francisco same-sex marriages that took place earlier this year. Other nominees in the category include Rachel Gordon with the *San Francisco Chronicle*, Phil Yost with the *San Jose Mercury News*, Robert Sterling with the *Marin Independent Journal*, and Peggy Stinnett with the *Oakland Tribune*.

"The B.A.R. is honored to be nominated for these prestigious awards," said publisher Thomas E. Horn. "These nominations testify to the excellence of our writers and recognizes the important role that the B.A.R. serves in providing quality news and arts coverage for the LGBT community throughout the San Francisco Bay Area."

Other weekly papers nominated include the *San Francisco Weekly*, the *Wave*, *San Francisco Business Times*, and the *Independent*.

The winners will be announced Monday, August 16.

Wedding expo Saturday

"Same Love, Same Rights" is the theme of a gay and lesbian

wedding expo that will take place Sunday, August 15 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the mezzanine level of the Westin St. Francis Hotel, 335 Powell Street in downtown San Francisco.

RainbowWeddingNetwork.com, an online gay and lesbian wedding registry, is producing the daylong event. The expo is free and open to the public. It will feature live music, wine tasting, speakers, fashion shows, giveaways, vendor booths, and much more, according to organizers.

For more information, visit www.rainbowweddingnetwork.com.

9/11 Commission meeting

Members of the 9/11 Commission, which last month issued their final and unanimous report on the 2001 terrorist attacks, have been touring the country to promote and talk about the report, and two commissioners will visit San Francisco Tuesday, August 17 for a public meeting. Former Senator Slade Gorton (R-Washington) and Richard Ben-Veniste (D), a former chief counsel of the Senate Watergate Committee, will discuss the commission's findings during a presentation sponsored by the Commonwealth Club. The meeting will be held in the Gold Room of the Fairmont Hotel, 950 Mason Street, with check-in at 5:30 p.m. and the program starting at 6. Cost is \$15 for members, \$30 for non-members. For more information, visit www.commonwealthclub.org.

[Editor's note: Keith Bradkows-

ki, who lost his partner Jeff Collman in the attacks, shares his thoughts on the commission in this week's Guest Opinion on page 6.]

Drag King contest

The ninth annual San Francisco Drag King contest will take place next Thursday, August 19 from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. at the DNA Lounge, 375 11 Street at Harrison. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door and this year's event benefits Pets Are Wonderful Support.

Max Voltage, last year's winner, will pass his title and crown to whoever wins what organizers describe as "this testosterone-fueled bash of the binary system."

Emcees include Fudgie Frotage and Rusty Hips. Contestants are judged on talent, creativity, originality, humor, makeup and facial hair, and fashion by an illustrious panel of local celebrity judges.

For more information, call (415) 282-5378 or visit www.sf-dragkingcontest.com.

Free HIV rapid testing

The Asian Pacific Islander Wellness Center has announced that it will offer free, confidential and anonymous rapid HIV antibody testing at its San Francisco office every Tuesday, from 1 to 4 p.m., by appointment only. Trained counselors provide results of the rapid test within one hour, as well as counseling throughout the process, in several languages.

To schedule an appointment or

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City funds Castro effort to form benefit district

by Matthew S. Bajko

With travelers the world over, the Castro has the same international reputation and draw as Union Square. Now, Castro merchants and residents hope their neighborhood will have the same monetary muscle as San Francisco's premiere shopping district.

In a joint effort with the city, Castro business and community leaders are in the process of forming a community benefit district or CBD. Through a CBD, property owners would be assessed a tax, which could pay for such things as cleaning and marketing of the district.

Along with the lower Polk neighborhood, the Castro recently won a \$15,000 competitive grant administered by the city and the Local Initiative Support Corporation to form the CBD. Through the grant, the neighborhood groups will receive the services of a LISC and a CBD consultant. Working with the neighborhood, LISC and the CBD consultant will begin to outreach to the community and property owners, help define the CBD district, and develop a management plan for the proposed CBD.

The Castro steering committee has been meeting since this spring to begin mapping out the boundaries of the district and educate



Supervisor Bevan Dufty and city resident Delmar Neal show off the new Craftsman Professional Pressure Washer that Neal received to help in his efforts to keep Castro sidewalks clean and gum-free. Dufty is supportive of the effort under way to establish a community benefit district in the Castro.

area property owners, residents, and merchants about the benefits of the CBD. The idea is to follow suit with Union Square's business improvement district, established three years ago and organized to tax itself in the quest for a cleaner and safer neighborhood.

"I think this is an incredible opportunity for the Castro to better our neighborhood through

our own efforts. It is local government taken to the next step," said Herb Cohn, president of the Merchants of Upper Market and Castro and chair of the CBD steering committee. "The Castro is very likely to be in the forefront. We would be one of the first to be established in the city."

In March, city officials ap-

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PUBLISHER

Thomas E. Horn
Bob Ross (Founder, 1971 - 2003)

NEWS EDITOR

Cynthia Laird

ARTS EDITOR

Roberto Friedman

POLITICAL EDITOR

Wayne Friday

ASSISTANT EDITORS

Matthew S. Bajko
Mark Mardon
Zak Szymanski

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Tavo Amador • Victoria A. Brownworth
Philip Campbell • Dale Carpenter • Aaron J. Cohen
Kevin Davis • Richard Dadds • Eric Ganther
Glen Helfand • Liz Higleyman • Joe E. Jeffreys
Brandon Judell • Robert Julian • John F. Karr
Matthew Kennedy • David Lambie
Marcus Hernandez • Paula Martinac
Michael McDonagh • Gary Morris • David Nahmod
Jim Nawrocki • Lois Pearlman • Deborah Peifer
Tim Pfaff • Jim Pichota • Jim Provenzano
Mary Richards • Adrian Roberts • Bob Roehr
Adam Sandel • Jason Serinus • Will Shank
Gregg Shapiro • Gwendolyn Smith • Paul Thomason
Stephanie von Buchau • Helen Vozenilek
Ed Walsh • Dick Walters • Jane Warner

ART DIRECTION & LAYOUT

Adrian Roberts

AD PRODUCTION & DESIGN

T. Scott King

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Jane Philomen Cleland
Darlene/PhotoGraphics
Marc Geller
Rick Gerhart

ILLUSTRATORS & CARTOONISTS

Berg E.
Christine Smith

GENERAL MANAGER

Michael M. Yamashita

ADVERTISING MANAGER

David McBrayer

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Elsa Lee

NATIONAL ADVERTISING

REPRESENTATIVE

Rivendell Media
212.242.6863

LEGAL COUNSEL

Paul H. Melbostad

MEMBER

National Gay Newspaper Guild



Bay Area Reporter

395 Ninth Street
San Francisco, CA 94103
415.861.5019 • 415.861.7230
http://www.ebar.com

News Editor • barpaper@aol.com

Arts Editor • bararts@aol.com

Advertising • baradv@aol.com

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Red alert at SFFD

Things need to change at the San Francisco Fire Department. After years of being under a consent decree to diversify the department by seeking women and minority hires, the SFFD now faces criticism that it does virtually nothing to recruit gay male firefighters.

Our reports over the last two weeks paint a grim picture for gay firefighters, most of whom have experienced verbal harassment, outright hostility, and incidents bordering on hazing, according to stories they told us. On top of that, there is a real concern over SFFD's testing procedures, which, according to a gay sheriff's deputy who applied to be a firefighter, include questions on a personality inventory and job perception index that seem to screen out gay male applicants. Questions such as "Agree or disagree: 'I prefer reading the newspaper to reading poetry' and 'I prefer working in the yard to working in the garden'" are on the test, Jon Gray has charged, and he fails to see the connection between those questions and one's ability to fight fires. We agree.

But the department's troubles aren't limited to the screening procedures. As we have reported, gay firefighters and paramedics have complained of incidents that stop just short of hazing — a gay paramedic being forced to have his dinner placed on top of a toilet, for example, and being told "This is where you eat because you are a piece of shit" is but one example of what gay Civil Service Commissioner Morgan Gorrono has called a "deep-seated" problem within the department.

Another gay firefighter, who sent us a letter and requested to remain anonymous, recounted how homophobia is rampant in station houses at Pride time. Still another out gay firefighter told us that he's been passed over to drive the fire truck, even if he is the senior person on duty; another spoke of antigay comments made by firefighters while on calls.

All of this is disturbing and points to a "get-along, go-along" attitude within the department's ranks.

Fire Chief Joanne Hayes-White, who's been on the job about eight months, told us this week that she will seek to examine the department's testing procedures. Frankly, we find it astounding that the fire chief, after the city paid nearly \$500,000 to have the test

developed, hasn't even seen the department's own exam for potential firefighters. Even state officials were prevented from seeing the test when they investigated Gray's allegations and ultimately had to dismiss the case for lack of evidence. There's something wrong with this picture.

To Hayes-White's credit, however, she told us that she should be able to see the exam soon; and she plans to thoroughly review it within 60 days. She also has asked for a full explanation from the test's developer as to why he included certain questions on the personality index. This is a needed step in the right direction.

On the recruiting front, SFFD has much room for improvement. We have written articles when the San Francisco Police Department reaches out to recruit LGBT officers. We can't recall publishing a similar story on the fire department. While there are a good number of lesbian firefighters, the number of gay male firefighters is much lower. In order to have a department truly representative of the city it serves, SFFD should step up re-

cruiting efforts in the LGBT community.

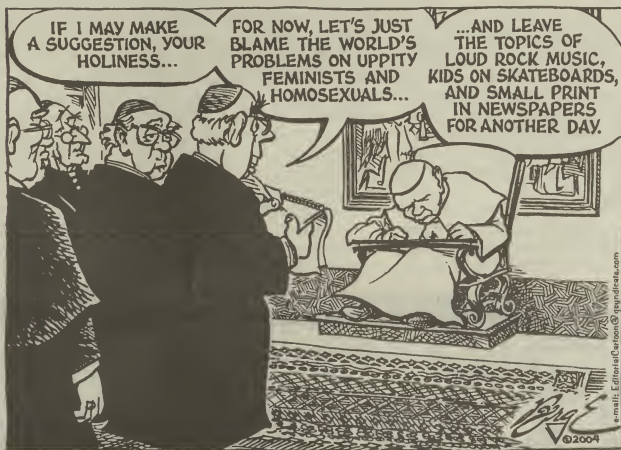
Gay and lesbian firefighters themselves are aware of the problems. There is talk of forming an employee group, like the Pride Alliance at the SFPD, an effort Hayes-White said she would support. And some firefighters have noted that those in the closet would be doing themselves and the department a greater service if they come out, so more gay voices can be heard. Gays, one lesbian firefighter said, also have a responsibility to work toward building bridges with their heterosexual colleagues. That's true in any work environment.

Unfortunately, all of this comes too late for Mr. Gray, who told us last week that he no longer has any desire to work for the department. We sincerely hope that wasn't the goal of the personality exam — to systematically exclude potential applicants based on their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Chief Hayes-White needs to make good on the pledges she made to us. It would be a shame if what the fire department wants is a force without qualified gay personnel. ▼



Editorial



The politics of terror

by Keith A. Bradkowski

Having lost my life partner in the terrorist attacks of September 11, imagine my astonishment when President Bush showed some interest, albeit insincere, in the findings of the 9/11 Commission. For more than a year after the attacks, George W. Bush opposed the creation of the independent bipartisan commission to examine what happened on and before September 11.

Under increasing pressure from the families of September 11 and public outcry, the commission was finally established. Throughout the commission's proceedings, the White House put up obstacles along the way. The president's delay in a military response against al Qaeda provided ample time for Osama bin Laden to escape. As national debate escalated on the lack of a cogent plan to fight terrorism, the administration launched a multitude of diversions. The war in Iraq was sold to us with inaccurate information about weapons of mass destruction and their ties to al Qaeda. And as American blood spilled in Iraq, the Federal Marriage Amendment was introduced in Congress to obfuscate an already divided nation. We have learned that fear is a powerful tool and it is not the first time it has been used by a president to manipulate voters to win an election.

All Americans have a vested interest in the security of our country and it should be a topic of national debate. The commission was given neither adequate time nor the re-

sources by the White House and Republican leaders of Congress out of concern that it would overshadow the November elections. In order for the commission to continue its work, it must now seek private funding sources. Perhaps in this case, if knowledge will set you free, the information discovered could unseat the president.

While the report of the commission offers little new information leading up to the tragic events of September 11, it does confirm what many of us already suspected — government agencies whose mission it was to safeguard our nation were more focused on protecting their own turf. And let us not forget, a commander-in-chief who has abdicated any responsibility by serving as co-president with Dick Cheney.

Unfortunately, many Americans have repressed the events of 9/11 and let politics play their usual tune. It has been interesting to learn in my travels across the country that the majority of people (including Congress) who support the war in Iraq do so without having children in the military. Our presence in Iraq has only rallied the support of terrorists on a global scale and badly tarnished our reputation in the world. Democracy in any country can only be won if it is in the hearts and minds of its people.

Leadership is more than speaking from the fallen World Trade Center or wearing a flight suit on the deck of an aircraft carrier. Serious times in a complex world require serious leaders. But in today's environment, anyone questioning the policies of this ad-

ministration is criticized and labeled unpatriotic. Having the ability to question our leaders is what makes our system of democracy better than any other.

As we approach the third anniversary of September 11, my sorrow has turned to anger. But anger has also energized me to become more informed and willing to speak out and educate the public.

The commission concludes its report by offering a sound blueprint for improving our national security. Now is the time for all of us to let our elected officials know that when it comes to the safety of our loved ones there are no Democrats or Republicans. There are only Americans. ▼

Keith Bradkowski is a registered nurse. He lost his partner, American Airlines flight attendant Jeff Collman, who was working on the first plane hijacked on September 11. Since Mr. Collman's death, Bradkowski lobbied for passage of the California domestic partner inheritance law that was signed into law in 2002 and was a witness last September before the first U.S. Senate Judiciary Subcommittee hearing speaking against the proposed Federal Marriage Amendment. Recently relocated to Tucson, Arizona, Bradkowski is one of the owners of Coyote Moon Health Resort and Spa scheduled to open in November 2004. The 9/11 Commission will hold a meeting in San Francisco on Tuesday, August 17. See "News in brief" that begins on page 4 for more information.

LETTERS

AHF responds

This is regarding the recent article "AHF drops Abbott lawsuits" [July 29] by Bob Roehr.

Because the *Bay Area Reporter* is a publication we highly respect, the AIDS Healthcare Foundation was very disappointed by the one-sided piece the B.A.R. recently published on our settlement with Abbott Laboratories. This is the second time in the past year that Bob Roehr has written an attack piece on AHF under the guise of writing a news story. Mr. Roehr's B.A.R. article ran in another publication under the title, "AHF Sells Out to Abbott on Norvir Pricing," hardly a neutral title. In this article, Mr. Roehr quoted several "advocates" that attack AHF. Yet Mr. Roehr did not bother to ask for AHF's response to these charges, but instead quoted selectively from AHF's press release.

To set the record straight, we say once again that AIDS Healthcare Foundation does not agree with the Norvir price increase. We are opposed to the price spiral in the cost of HIV drugs generally. And we will continue to fight for access to care for everyone, just as we have done for the past 18 years.

There is no more straightforward action than to receive money from a big drug company to keep 10,000 people alive. AHF is going to continue to save as many lives as possible everywhere in the world. We are putting our words into action by caring for 20,000 patients across the U.S. and across the globe, and, unlike some of our detractors who get most of their money from drug companies and yet pretend to be critics, we believe that our record of treatment and advocacy speaks for itself.

Michael Weinstein, President
AIDS Healthcare Foundation
Los Angeles, California

About those civil rights

Memo to Jim Rivaldo [Mailstrom, August 5]: There is no constitutionally protected right to defecate on the sidewalk.

Frederic Millen
San Francisco

TG inclusion

Two of the largest, and most prominent, national LGBT advocacy groups came out with press releases within the last week in support of the inclusion of gender identity in future legislation. The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force said, "The time for debate is over. The question must be called. EDNA [Employment Non-Discrimination Act] must be amended to protect transgender people. If it is not, we all must walk away from it." The Human Rights Campaign, in a startling change of direction, adopted a policy that it will only support EDNA "if it is inclusive of sexual orientation and gender identity and expression." I thank and applaud both of these organizations for their vision and courage for finally demanding full inclusion of all members of the LGBT community in all legislation. Equality California, the largest statewide LGBT advocacy group, has already announced the equality transgender initiative for the 2005 California legislative session.

I now call upon all transgenders, locally, statewide, and throughout the country, to stand with the NGLTF, HRC and Equality California in their efforts to protect all members of the LGBT community against workplace discrimination and hate violence. Together we are more effective. Together we are strong. Together we will eliminate discrimination due to sexual orientation and gender identity and expression in the workplace and elsewhere in our everyday lives. Thank you NGLTF. Thank you HRC. Thank you Equality California.

Theresa Sparks
San Francisco

Sisters support diversity

For the past 25 years, the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence have been a colorful and playful force for social change by injecting gaiety into serious affairs such as religious intolerance, political activism, and human rights. By intentionally placing themselves simultaneously on the fringe, and right in the middle of things, the Sisters' antics have worked toward creating space in the queer communities where all can feel welcome.

The Sisters wholeheartedly support the efforts of the IsBadlandsBad.com campaign and its vision of the Castro as it should be: a place of inclusion, justice, and true diversity. The Sisters applaud the courage of the men and women who have come forward to share their stories of discrimination and would like to thank the organizers for fostering a larger and long overdue dialogue about race and gender in our communities.

Tonight (Thursday August 12), from 8 p.m. until midnight at the LGBT Community Center, IsBadlandsBad.com is throwing a party called "Spectrum: The Promise of the Castro." Please join the Sisters, the burlesque extravaganza of Harlem Shake, Tia Bloomington, Manley Lenox, and comedian Yayne Abeba as we congratulate the folks behind IsBadlandsBad.com on their successes to date, help them raise money to offset the costs of their work, and launch "And Castro

for All," a new initiative to foster inclusion in our LGBT communities.

Let's create the Castro we all dream of: a community of creative and dynamic people, a model of inclusion, a place where pride is made.

Sister Bea Attitude
The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence Inc.
San Francisco

'Heartless' trend in gay men

Recently, I've noticed what is in my mind a very sad, discriminating, insensitive, and heartless trend in a lot of gay men.

It used to be that we, the gay community, claimed to be the most accepting, loving, and compassionate of all people to those who were dealing with HIV and AIDS. We took them in our homes, our arms, and helped hundreds feel loved and respected until the end.

It used to be that we never talked about HIV, dealt with it, and discussed it. People never dated someone or slept with someone who would openly and admittedly state their status.

Then we became much more aware and educated and now boastfully claim, "I date people who are positive," or "I'm open to being with someone who is." However, in my opinion, we have now actually only changed the way we avoid and try to escape the reality of AIDS.

Today, when I sign on to any of the millions of Internet sites, I am always reminded of how rude, uneducated, and hate-filled this younger, much less experienced and ignorant group of gays have become to those of us who now after years of antiretroviral therapy, are now showing signs of lipodystrophy.

Today, it's fine to be positive, it's okay to date someone, you can trick with them, have them as a friend - just as long as they don't look sick.

In the past five years, both in person and online, I've had a series of experiences where I met someone, seemed to connect with them on some level, and then either sent them a current picture, or met them in person. Upon them getting the picture or meeting me, they had the ignorance to say something like: "Oh, I'm sorry, this isn't going to work out. I didn't know you looked so sick." Or, "I could tell you were positive, from your face. I knew you were like that."

Like what?
After recently finding myself single again, this week I was online and trying to find some new friends and add to my support system. Upon signing on to Gay.com, within moments I had a few instant messages popping up. "What a great body man," "Awesome body," "Looking to hook up?" The usual. But then the other ones started: "Too bad you have such a great body and such an ugly face," "Muscle queens like you look so huge, but your face looks like shit, why don't you just go roll up and die," "You look pretty sick, I wouldn't date you."

Later that evening, after having tried to shake some of those remarks off, I went into a gay men's chat room for HIV-positive men to discuss what had happened to me earlier in the day and what I got was even more crushing than I could imagine.

"Get over it," "Lighten up honey," and "You know, queens like you who are so vain, really piss me off when you start whining about your looks, get over it and lose the ego, bitch."

My point is this: If we really want to call ourselves a "community," if we really want to say we are the most educated group of people out there when it comes to HIV education and training, if we really want to have a parade and floats and balloons and music to celebrate being gay, why don't we take a look at the way we discriminate and ostracize our own people the other 364 days out of the year.

Brian Wickersham
San Francisco

Homosexual nation

What if a few people managed through surprise, might, and applying an element of science to suppress all heterosexuals and create a homosexual nation? Then a homosexual world? From a more perfect union to a more perfect world.

I had a dream of this, inspired, I think, by the Bush administration and its effort to force change in the world. Maybe, too, because I'm a gay person myself. This dream became a nightmare. It seemed plausible as I worked out all the details like in a movie, but the experience proved very unpleasant. Greed, discrimination, suppression of dissent, and autocratic rule by force was the result. In other words, not so very different from the current Bush administration. We should be equal under the law but are we equal in reality?

I woke up from this nightmare and my heart was pounding. I took my boner to the toilet to pee and, unable to get back to sleep, I started this letter. Now if only we could stop dreams such as this.

Jack L. Dodson
San Francisco

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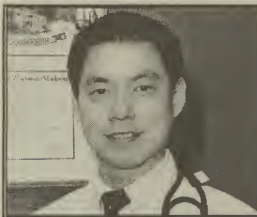
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Who's un-American?

by Paula Martinac

The loaded term "un-American" is in the news again, this time because Teresa Heinz Kerry used it as a critique of the right. For many decades, "un-American" has been a charge leveled almost exclusively at the left. However, there have been numerous recent Republican tactics that do indeed qualify as "un-American."

Depending on what news sources you rely on, Heinz Kerry rebuked some Republicans for their un-American "traits," "tactics," or "tirades." All of these terms are very different from "un-American activities," which is how ultra-conservative *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review* editor Colin McNickle—who must have been flabbergasted by a Republican-turned-Democrat using the right's cherished "U word"—misrepresented her remarks.

It's no wonder that Heinz Kerry accused McNickle of misquoting her and told him to "shove it." After all, the phrase "un-American activities" has a very specific historical meaning, referring to the heinous witch-hunts of the 1930s through the early 1950s that destroyed the careers of so many left-leaning people by tarnishing their reputations and depriving them of employment.

Interestingly, when it was founded in 1937, the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) was intended to investigate both extremes of the political spectrum. However, it quickly zeroed in on the left, because its very first chair, Martin Dies, was a right-winger. (Dies was a staunch supporter of the Ku Klux Klan who deemed a probe of the KKK's activities unnecessary and turned instead to searching for Communies in the New Deal's Federal Writers Project.) Most of the people HUAC investigated weren't "un-American" at all, but had only exercised their very American rights of freedom of speech and association.

In the present day, the charge of "un-American" continues to be leveled incorrectly at an assortment of public figures and private citizens, simply because they disagree with the party in power. This branding began after the September 11 attacks and has only intensified. Documentary filmmaker Michael Moore was deemed "un-American" for *Fahrenheit 9/11*, his powerful indictment of the Bush administration's foreign policy. Last year, conservative pundits charged that the far-from-radical Hillary Rod-

ham Clinton was "un-American" simply because she criticized the administration's lack of exit strategy from Iraq. And in what Republicans must have thought was a more "subtle" tactic, Kentucky GOPers recently distributed bumper stickers bearing the slogan "Kerry Is Bin Laden's Man, Bush Is Mine."

But what does it really mean to be "un-American"? By definition, it is to be contrary to the principles on which this country was founded, as eloquently stated in the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution. And who, in fact, has been working against American principles in recent months?

The far-right wing of the Republican Party, to whom our president is pandering in his bid for re-election. Consider these examples:

1. Most famously, there was the Federal Marriage Amendment, which in July failed to be brought to the floor of the U.S. Senate. This bill was an unprecedented at-

page 23 ►



Caroline Smith



Lesbian Notions

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POLITICS

Barbara Boxer in good shape for November

by Wayne Friday

With less than three months until the November election and with Democratic presidential nominee **John Kerry** expected to carry California handily, Senator **Barbara Boxer** (D) appears headed to a somewhat easy third-term reelection as well.

When California Republicans met in San Diego last weekend for their state convention, the star Republican, Governor **Arnold Schwarzenegger**, was nowhere to be seen, and the party was left with an out-of-state import as its featured speaker. Boxer's opponent, former California Secretary of State **Bill Jones**, was pretty much left alone to try to bolster his fledgling U.S. Senate campaign.

Despite recent well-publicized California appearances with Vice President **Dick Cheney** and Arizona Senator **John McCain**, a new statewide Field Poll revealed that Jones has failed to make a significant impression on California voters, with half of those asked saying they had no impression one way or another of the GOP Senate nominee despite five months of campaigning since the March primary.

Boxer, according to the latest Field Poll, has a double-digit lead over Jones, leading him among likely November voters 50 percent to 33 percent with 17 percent saying they support another candidate or were undecided. **Mark DiCamillo**, director of the Field Poll, explained that Boxer is much better known statewide than is Jones and "the reason Senator Boxer holds this kind of lead is because of the unequal nature of voter awareness and knowledge of the two candidates."

Despite Jones reportedly having raised around \$4 million, plus an additional \$2 million from his personal fortune that he says he will put into the race, he still badly trails Boxer in fundraising; her campaign has raised more than \$14 million and the Boxer campaign reportedly brought in nearly \$3 million in the last three-month reporting period, while Jones raised \$1.9 during the same period. Although spokespersons for the Jones campaign claim that planned upcoming fundraisers by former New York City Mayor **Rudy Giuliani** and Schwarzenegger should bolster his fundraising efforts, a recent report in the *Sacramento Bee* suggested that Schwarzenegger's aides "say it's unlikely he'll do much for a lagging candidate." The story said that although the governor had agreed to one Jones fundraiser and maybe make an appearance for Jones while President Bush is in the state this week, the story concluded by saying "don't expect to see the Republican governor do much for Jones's underdog bid to unseat Senator Boxer."

Boxer's lead in the latest Field Poll has in fact climbed from a 10-point advantage just after the March primary; she is holding a large lead over Jones in the Los Angeles and San Francisco areas, both Democratic strongholds, but

is also leading him in the other major areas of the state, including the Republican-rich Central Valley, the poll found.

One area where Jones appears to beat Boxer, however, is in personal wealth. Jones's personal fortune reportedly totals between \$6 million to \$27 million, while Boxer's assets total \$1.1 million to \$5.3 million, according to annual financial disclosure forms for senators and Senate candidates recently made public. Those reports cover 2003, and reveal for the first time that Jones was a founder and former chair of Pacific Ethanol Inc., reportedly owning 4.8 million shares in the company.

Politics and people

Ralph Nader, again: You didn't think I'd overlook this one, did you? Last week's letters to the editor carried one written by some guy from Berkeley (figures...) telling "your man Friday to shut the fuck up about Nader." Ha! Not a chance. As long as Nader, who is directly responsible for giving us four years of **George W. Bush**, presents any threat of

doing so again this election, I'll write what I damn well please about this aging, self-centered political egomaniac. The letter writer goes on to say that Greens "do not like being called names." Well, sorry that I offended anyone by "name-calling," but in fact I thought that Nader had left the Green Party to become an "independent." As for what I will always call Nader, it's simply "spoiler," and as to those who blindly follow him down that road, I'd have to call them pathetic political losers.

So, Governor Schwarzenegger and the Legislature have finally given the state a budget. Assemblyman **Mark Leno** (D-San Francisco) was one of those who had it right when he quickly said that the governor's budget "had more borrowing, more deferring, and more one-time borrowing than any that **Gray Davis** had ever offered."

Incidentally, Governor Schwarzenegger is scheduled to be one of the star attractions at the upcoming Republican National Convention at the end of this month in New York City—the GOP's answer to **Ron Reagan**, I'm told.

Meanwhile, Republicans can be expected to trot out Hollywood celebs galore during their four-day confab, but how much of **Bo Derek**, **Pat Boone**, **Herb Stein**, and **Dennis Miller** can we take? And the GOP isn't saying much about it, but one of the most popular Republicans in the country (and certainly in the Bush administration), Secretary of State **Colin Powell**, confirmed this week that he doesn't even plan to attend the New York GOP confab.

To those San Francisco voters already asking what I think of non-citizens voting here—no, I don't think it's a good idea whether it's for the school board, or whatever. If one wishes to vote in this country, it's pretty simple: apply for and become a citizen.

I don't personally know **Sean Elsbernd**, the new supervisor in District 7, but many of those whose views I trust such as **Bevan Duffy**

and **Mark Leno** tell me the guy is terrific, and reporters covering City Hall say he's one of the best-liked and talented young people in city government (and anybody who can work for **Tony Hall** and remain friends with both **Chris Daly** and **Matt Gonzalez** must have something going for him) so our best to Supervisor Elsbernd, and good luck as well to Hall with his new job at Treasure Island.

Gavin and Kimberly: hey, I gotta admit it, I love 'em... Mayor **Gavin Newsom** and his gorgeous wife, television legal analyst **Kimberly Guilfoyle Newsom**, are getting the star treatment in *Harper's Bazaar*. The bicoastal power couple is featured in an opulent fashion spread entitled "The New Kennedys." One photo shows Kimberly in a knockout gown posing in front of a pool table at Tosca's with the mayor in the background, another has the couple looking great reclining on a carpet in the Getty mansion. *Harper's* contributing editor Nancy Collins says the marriage of the couple "promises to be one of the most glamorous political unions since Jack and Jackie." Newsom, who most agree is headed for bigger and better things politically, told *Harper's* that he respects his wife's professional success. "She understands what I want to do—giving me freedom to do it—so I could never deny her; it's this wonderful combination of being in love and extraordinarily proud." Hey, I'm proud of you both, Mr. Mayor.

As for the state of the city, well, I keep telling all those tourists and locals complaining to "give this guy time, maybe a year, you'll see a marked difference." Damn, I hope I'm right, but if you take a look around, there's reason to worry. I'm told that the general assistance rolls have dropped dramatically (thanks to Care Not Cash), but have you taken a walk down Market Street (anywhere from Castro to the Embarcadero) lately? If there are less homeless, it certainly isn't reflected in the shopping cart brigades or those still spotted sleeping (drunk or otherwise) openly on the streets—both during the daytime and at night. Like many supporters of Newsom, I've got high hopes for his administration, and agree that it takes time, but try telling that to the longtime residents and the tourists (most who swear never to return) that continue to see the streets littered with overloaded shopping carts (aren't these damned things stolen property to begin with?) and strung-out people. I think Mayor Newsom should call in the main man in charge of whatever department that is and have a talk with him—I'm willing to accompany Hizzhonor or anyone in his office for a walk down Market Street or Castro Street (the Tenderloin seems to be getting a little bit better, incidentally though those dining regularly at Original Joe's would give you an argument on even that one). Hang in there, Mr. Mayor, and keep the chin up, we're counting on you.

Finally, my "Quote of the Week" comes from President Bush, speaking August 5, in Washington, D.C.: "Our enemies are innovative and resourceful, and so are we. They never stop thinking about new ways to harm our country and our people, and neither do we." (Hey, it's on the record, folks, I don't make these up.)

And how was your week? ▼



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How gay is fashion design?

by Liz Highleyman

August 1936 (68 years ago this month): Fashion designer Yves Saint Laurent is born in Oran, Algeria.

Gay men have long been associated with the arts and creative professions. While some in the GLBT community have criticized the popular television series *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy* for reinforcing the stereotype that gay men have a superior sense of style, many of the best-known fashion designers of

the past century have, in fact, been gay or bisexual.

Until recently, most gay or bisexual fashion designers did not publicly acknowledge their sexuality. Nevertheless, some were assumed to be queer based in part on the company they kept. British designer Sir Norman Hartnell (born 1901), the official dressmaker for the British royal family who created Queen Elizabeth's wedding and coronation gowns, never married and moved in theatrical circles. Christian Dior

(born 1905) lived in Paris during the 1920s, where he became friends with gay playwright Jean Cocteau and his bohemian circle. Although Dior mentioned an intimate friendship in his autobiography, he did not explicitly reveal his sexual orientation.

Rudi Gernreich (born 1922), who in the 1960s became famous for creating the first women's topless bathing suit, also never publicly came out as gay. After fleeing the Nazis in Austria as a teenager, Gernreich settled in Los

Angeles. In 1950, he began a relationship with Harry Hay. A year later, Hay, Gernreich, and several other gay men founded the Mattachine Society, one of the first U.S. homophile organizations. Although Hay later received recognition as a gay rights pioneer, he kept Gernreich's secret; the latter's sexual orientation did not come to light until after his death in 1985.

Other designers only revealed they were gay late in life. Sir Hardy Amies (born 1909), who succeeded Hartnell as the queen's dressmaker, did not publicly acknowledge his homosexuality until his old age. Yves Saint Laurent (born 1936), who as a child was taunted by his peers for being effeminate, did not come out until 1991, in an interview with *Le Figaro* newspaper. Similarly, 72-year-old Italian designer Valentino Garavani and his former lover and long-time business partner Giancarlo Giammetti finally came out in the August 2004 issue of *Vanity Fair* magazine.

Some queer fashion designers gained fame through their connections with celebrities. Halston (born Roy Halston Frowick in 1932) and Calvin Klein (born 1942) were among the "Velvet Mafia" connected with New York City's Studio 54 disco in the late 1970s, inhabiting gossip columns along with the likes of Andy Warhol, Liza Minnelli, and Bianca Jagger. Halston's increasing drug use, frequent encounters with callboys, and destructive relationship with a Venezuelan lover led to his firing by his parent corporation. Klein married young and had a daughter, but divorced in 1974. Although he increasingly engaged in liaisons with men, Klein struggled with his sexuality. Yet as one of the first designers to feature buff young men in his famous underwear ads, Klein "made homoeroticism a staple of consumer culture," asserts fashion writer Shaun Cole.

Gianni Versace, born to a poor family in southern Italy in 1946, also hobnobbed with the rich and famous, including his friends Elton John and Princess Diana. Open about his homosexuality,

Versace lived with his lover, former model Antonio D'Amico, for more than 10 years. On July 15, 1997, Versace was shot on the steps of his Miami Beach home by gay serial killer Andrew Cunanan, ending a cross-country murder spree that claimed four other lives.

During the 1980s, AIDS had a devastating effect on the fashion world. In 1985, Italian designer Giorgio Armani lost his lover and business partner, Sergio Galeotti, to the disease. In May 1986, designer Perry Ellis died of AIDS at age 46. The following year, Willi-Wear founder Willi Smith—one of the best-known African American designers—died of AIDS-related pneumonia. Halston was diagnosed with AIDS in 1988 and died two years later in San Francisco. In 1990, after AIDS claimed his lover and business partner of 15 years, Jean-Paul Gaultier considered giving up design and committing suicide; instead, he devoted himself to his work, and rekindled his career when he created Madonna's famous bullet-bra corset.

Today, a new generation of designers can live openly—and even flamboyantly—gay lives. Domenico Dolce (born 1958) and Stefano Gabbana (born 1962) became lovers in the early 1980s and business partners soon thereafter. Texas-bred Tom Ford (born 1961), who designs for the houses of Gucci and Saint Laurent, is in a long-term relationship with fashion magazine editor Richard Buckley. In 2002, Alexander McQueen (born 1969) married his lover, filmmaker George Forsyth, on a yacht off the island of Ibiza. And Brooklyn-born Isaac Mizrahi (born 1962) is famous not only for creating lavish gowns for Hollywood stars, but also for his television talk show.

While queer men continue to play a prominent role in the world of fashion design, it has become more acceptable for heterosexual (or "metrosexual") men to take an interest in their appearance. "Men are finally accepting the role of sexual attraction and are more comfortable with it," Dolce said in a 2001 interview. "It isn't just a gay thing to enjoy fashion any more." ▼

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Clarification

After running the article "Police raids, inspections may not affect gay sex clubs" on July 29, the *Bay Area Reporter* received several phone calls asking for clarification about the nature of how sex clubs are regulated in the city.

As the article states, there are only a handful of full-time gay sex clubs in San Francisco, including Eros, Mack Folsom Prison, Power Exchange, and Blow Buddies.

Sex clubs follow safer sex guidelines set by the Department of Public Health. The guidelines call for clubs to, among other things, always be able to monitor the sexual activities on premises. In this regard, gay sex clubs actually operate "above the standard" set by municipal codes—which normally restrict fully enclosed spaces only at businesses that operate during certain hours or serve food or beverages.

Separate from DPH regulated sex clubs are a variety of adult venues classified under municipal codes as anything from encounter studios to theaters and video stores. Such venues can be rumored to have sexual activity in their back booths. And in some of these spaces, like strip clubs, the existence of these booths may be a violation of municipal codes.

The recent police raids on local heterosexual-oriented strip clubs specifically targeted prostitution, a criminal offense in the penal code. These criminal offenses allegedly occurred in illegally constructed booths at these venues. One way to prevent the criminal activity, suggested District Attorney Kamala Harris, is to issue citations through the Department of Building Inspection to venues with illegal booths under municipal codes.

Harris's request for DBI to "do its job" prompted DBI official Ken Harrington to imply that the city was cracking down on heterosexual venues while allowing illegal booths in "gay sex clubs," which had erroneously been defined in the mainstream media to include venues such as adult video stores.

Video stores as defined by law have fewer municipal regulations, and enclosed movie-viewing booths are allowed in those spaces. In order to avoid any semblance of prostitution, the venues often prohibit women from entering the booths. While male sexual activity may occur in those booths (often while watching heterosexual porn), these venues are not "gay sex clubs"—not socially, and not by DPH policy. And the venues are also not prohibited from having the booths mentioned as potential problems by the San Francisco Chronicle's Phil Matier and Andrew Ross and DBI's Harrington.

On the other hand, actual gay sex clubs openly advertise their sexual activity, and therefore already agree not to have enclosed spaces that make it impossible to monitor interactions.

All of these factors add up to why it is unlikely that gay sex clubs, as defined, will be the targets of police raids for prostitution or Department of Building Inspection citations for illegal booths. ▼

— Zak Szymanski

COMMUNITY NEWS

Penny wisdom

by Jane Warner

The AIDS Emergency Fund has reported to police a recent rash of penny jar thefts that have occurred in the Castro neighborhood. A locked Plexiglas donation jar that was found smashed by a rock near 19th Street was taken from the counter of Starbucks at 18th and Castro. The owner of My Best Friend, a small pet store on 18th Street, also reported an attempted theft of the

store's jar. AEF has taken several steps to secure these donation jars, Executive Director Mike Smith told the *Bay Area Reporter*, and has some helpful security tips for those who display them. AEF advises that the jars be secured with a chain and placed behind the counter when the business is closed. The agency also suggests that the jar be emptied frequently and not allowed to get too full. As 100 percent of the money raised by the jars goes directly to AEF clients, the loss of revenue from the thefts, plus the

costs to repair the Plexiglas boxes, has cost money that otherwise would go to those in need. Anyone interested in donating to AEF should call (415) 558-6999.

Belle of the ball

Pure Beauty, 3600 16th Street, August 3, 7:30 p.m.: A man came into the beauty supply store three times during the day, acting suspicious. The third time, the man



waited until all the other customers had left, approached the clerk behind the counter, and pulled out a large hunting knife.

"Get into the bathroom," he demanded, "and don't peek." Fearing for her life, the clerk complied, and the robber – described as a white male with bad acne and a Southern accent – fled the small store in an unknown direction with \$700 he took from the regis-

ter. Responding officers said the suspect fit the description of a suspect in several robberies, who has been nicknamed, the "Good ol' boy bandit." The good ol' boy turned up at the Pontiac Hotel the next day, and police surrounded his room and took him into custody without incident. Brian Mark Joyce, 30, of Hillsboro, Alabama, was booked with seven counts of armed robbery, eight counts of burglary, one count of attempted armed robbery, and six counts of false imprisonment. ▼

Misquez to seek new trial

by Ed Walsh

The lawyer for the East Bay man convicted last month of killing a gay man he met on the Internet will ask a judge for a new trial, Contra Costa County Deputy District Attorney Paul Graves told the *Bay Area Reporter* last week.

Brian Misquez, 25, was found guilty of second-degree murder on July 8. On July 6, 2001, Misquez stabbed 22-year-old Rogelio DeChavez 27 times in DeChavez's El Cerrito apartment. In an exclusive jailhouse interview with the *B.A.R.* after the verdict was reached, Misquez said he was shocked by the jury's decision that found him guilty of murder and maintained that he acted in self-defense to keep from being raped.

Graves told the *B.A.R.* he had no idea of the grounds on which Misquez's public defense lawyer, Laurie Mont, would ask a judge to grant Misquez a new trial. Mont did not return the *B.A.R.*'s calls seeking comment. A hearing to take up the request for a new trial is slated for September 17 in Con-

tra Costa County Superior Court in Martinez. Graves noted that it is not uncommon for defense attorneys to ask for a new trial in homicide cases.

Misquez was scheduled to be sentenced last Thursday, August 5. At Mont's request, sentencing was delayed until October 29 pending her request for a new trial.

A jury of six men and six women deliberated Misquez's fate for a day before reaching a verdict. Two of the jurors who stopped to talk with reporters outside court said that most of their debate was on whether to find Misquez guilty of first- or second-degree murder. The jurors said that in the end, all but one in their panel voted for a second-degree conviction. The lone juror was holding out for a manslaughter conviction but decided to change his vote because of what he considered to be Misquez's lack of remorse.

Misquez took the stand in his own defense during the last day of testimony in the trial, telling jurors that he acted in self-defense. Graves said in his closing argument that he was struck by Misquez's lack of remorse. After the

verdict, Misquez told the *B.A.R.* that he was too numb during the trial to show any emotion.

"I feel bad about it, about the guy being dead and for the family," Misquez told the *B.A.R.* "The whole thing should not have happened the way it happened. If I could turn back time I would."

Graves called Misquez "evil" and said that he changed his account of the crime five times to fit the evidence as he learned of it. The prosecutor told jurors that Misquez killed DeChavez because he felt conflicted over his own homosexual feelings.

At the time of the killing, Misquez was living with his girlfriend, Jennifer Gordon, and the couple's two babies. Gordon testified during the trial. Mont told the *B.A.R.* that she was disturbed because Gordon appeared to be more upset that Misquez had sex with a man than she was over the killing itself.

Although Misquez insisted in his testimony and in his interview with the *B.A.R.* that he acted in self-defense, Mont did not plead self-defense on her client's behalf. She argued that her client

deserved to be convicted of manslaughter because he acted "without malice aforethought." She said that Misquez was unsophisticated, suffered from a history of paranoia, and was described by a doctor as being "slow." She added that he had family problems that included a racist grandmother who did not approve of his Mexican father. At the time of the killing, Misquez was having financial problems

and was a "walking time bomb," Mont said. The defense attorney also stressed that Misquez had no gay role models, couldn't accept his own gay feelings, and that ultimately the homophobia in Misquez's peer group and society at large played a major part in the killing.

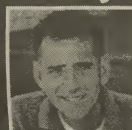
Graves argued that although Misquez was conflicted about his sexuality, that did not give him a license to kill. ▼

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City supervisor

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the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club and a variety of LGBT and progressive elected officials.

Bustos said he started campaigning when it was perceived that Ammiano was termed out of office, and was not trying to "run against" the incumbent. Nevertheless, he said, "our needs are not being met. Our parks have no grass, our businesses are failing, there are drugs and gangs and it's all happening because our district has been neglected."

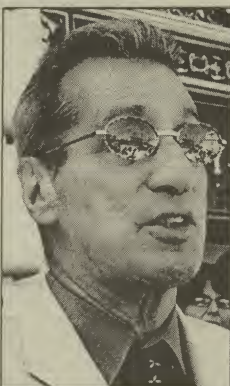
Bustos said being an openly gay Latino would help him to bridge the gap between the neighborhood communities.

"Things have been pretty divisive here," said Bustos. "The status quo has not worked for us."

With a host of progressive, labor, and LGBT achievements under his belt, Ammiano said that he is confident about the race and that while he takes every candidate seriously, "I don't think they can compete with my experience. I've got great endorsements, good money, and a real grassroots effort behind this. And I feel the record is there." Ammiano also said he welcomes the competition.

"I sponsored district elections and public financing so people could get into elections," said Ammiano.

More on Bustos and his posi-



Supervisor Tom Ammiano

tions can be found at www.miguelbustos.com. Ammiano's Web site is at www.ammiano.com.

For the District 5 race, Barnes believes he is "well positioned," already having raised about \$14,000, recently securing the endorsement of openly gay former prosecutor Jim Hammer, and bringing visibility to under-represented communities in the area.

"I've got a lot of support among queer people of color who want to see someone from the community in this kind of role," said Barnes, adding that his HIV work – including his past role as the city's AIDS Czar – "has been

coming up a lot through the course of campaigning." If he wins, Barnes will be the first openly HIV-positive member of the Board of Supervisors and only the second queer person of color (after Susan Leal) to serve in that capacity.

Haaland, a labor, tenant, and queer activist who has a long list of powerful and progressive endorsements from many different communities, said he is "really honored to be gaining so much support in the LGBT community." If he wins, it is believed that Haaland will be the first openly transgender city supervisor elected in the country. From his work on the political campaigns of Gonzalez, Daly, and Ammiano to legislation for renters and workers, Haaland said, "I believe I have the experience the district needs." Last week Haaland received the endorsement of Assessor-Recorder Mabel Teng. Last month District Attorney Kamala Harris endorsed him.

More information about Haaland can be found at www.roberthaaland.com. Barnes's Web site is www.Barnes04.com.

Barnes said the nice thing about this election is that where LGBT candidates are seemingly opposed, ranked choice voting will be in effect. Community members can therefore cast their votes for more than one queer candidate if they wish, and "it can be less competitive." ▼



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Developer plans housing next to LGBT center

by Matthew S. Bajko

An East Bay developer plans to turn the Sue Mills building adjacent to the LGBT Community Center into a mixed-use residential project. Emeryville-based BayRock Residential is under contract to acquire the property at 1850 Market Street.

The project would include 112 to 114 one- and two-bedroom market-rate condominiums for rent, with a portion set aside for affordable housing, and retail space fronting Market Street. Prices would be in the mid-\$2,000 range per month, per unit.

The building could range in height from 80 to 88 feet, with underground parking for 70 to 150 vehicles. The garage entrance would be on Waller Street.

Developer Stuart Gruendl has eyed the property for the last seven months, and about two months ago, he entered into contract to buy the parcel. At a meeting Monday, August 9 with Hayes Valley residents, Gruendl stressed he has yet to develop any concept for the site.

"We are in the preliminary in-

vestigation period," he said. "We want to create energy on Market Street and respect the residential street on Waller. Our goal here is to introduce ourselves and get initial feedback."

Currently, the building is home to Sue Mills, a school uniform company, as well as the election headquarters for the local Democratic Party. A chain link fence with barbed wire lines the site's Market Street side, though at night the building's parking lot turns into a homeless encampment.

The property has been for sale for several years, and Sue Mills reportedly plans to vacate the building next year. Numerous groups have expressed interest in the site, from the Metropolitan Community Church and Beverages and More! to another developer who wanted to build housing and a fitness center. However, the owners have allowed the proposals to wane and the asking price ranges between \$6 million and \$9 million, sources said.

Gruendl said, "It has been difficult to get control of the site" but added, "I see us buying it next year. It's a very expensive piece of property, but I think it is worth it. It is a great location."

As for the building, he said, "We are not interested in building a big box that sucks up the whole site."

Residents expressed support at the prospect of seeing the site improved but voiced some concern about the number of parking spaces being proposed. They preferred to see less parking and perhaps a City Car Share pod at the site.

"Every green car you see from City Car Share is seven people who have given up their cars," said Tys Sniffen, a candidate for District 5 supervisor who attended the meeting, which drew a dozen people.

"The people we want to attract to the neighborhood are people who don't have cars. We want it to be pedestrian friendly and want more retail people can walk to, to shop at," said Patricia Walkup, co-chair of the Hayes Valley Neighborhood Association's land use and transportation committee. "If you create more density and bring in more cars it defeats the whole purpose."

With the LGBT center's dominating presence on the corner, the project's architect said the new building would not overshadow it.

"We have to complement the

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HRC

◀ page 1

announcement brings it in step with more progressive organizations, like the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, which on August 3 released its own statement entitled "ENDA As We've Known It Must Die."

But unlike the NGLTF statement — which came out strongly opposed to ENDA as written, recognized transgenders as equal, and acknowledged how personal transphobia played into prior transgender exclusions — HRC's August 7 statement is billed as support for "modernized workplace legislation," and mentions transgenders only when citing the need to protect "all lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Americans." HRC also seems to justify its new position by noting that gender identity protections are necessary for lesbians and gays.

"We are strongest as a community when we are united and that's why we need the strongest and most unifying protections," said HRC President Cheryl Jacques in a statement.

"HRC took this step to ensure that ENDA will provide real protection to incidents of workplace discrimination. Attorneys who specialize in civil rights laws believe that ENDA without gender identity and expression explicitly stated may not adequately address discrimination against gay, lesbian, and bisexual Americans who are often singled out because they're viewed as not conforming to gender norms," said the HRC statement in support of a gender identity inclusive ENDA.

Yet for the most part, many LGBT advocates were pleased that the link between gender and sexual orientation was finally made by a gay group.

"One thing that I rarely see mentioned, including in NGLTF's excellent statement, is that gender identity protections help protect

lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals too. Also heterosexuals," said Larry Brinkin, a compliance officer with the San Francisco Human Rights Commission. "If someone is harassed or discriminated against because they're a feminine man or a masculine woman, 'sexual orientation' as a protected category doesn't always work."

For local transgender activist and Police Commissioner Theresa Sparks, HRC's emphasis on gays is not a problem if it accomplishes the goal of securing transgender inclusive protections.

"They have to do that to sell it to the legislators, like [Congressman] Barney Frank and people they are trying to get to carry the bill," said Sparks. "That's fine if that's what they have to do."

The openly gay Frank, a Democratic representative from Massachusetts, has gone on record in the past opposed to a transgender-inclusive ENDA, reportedly saying, "There are workplace situations — communal showers, for example — when the demands of the transgender community fly in the face of conventional norms and therefore would not pass in any Congress. I've talked with transgender activists and what they want — and what we will be forced to defend — is for people with penises who identify as women to be able to shower with other women. There are no votes for that. And if that is the price of this bill, it is wrong."

Frank's statement has been quoted by right-wing groups like the American Family Association as proof that "radical transgenders" are trying to force men into women's showers. But the "penis panic," as noted by *Texas Triangle* columnist Katrina C. Rose, has always been "a red herring." Carefully crafted, detailed regulations always go into how legislation is implemented, wrote Rose in 1999, "to cover all possible situations, including the infinitesimal number of workplaces that would potentially be affected by that scenario."

Frank is reportedly now on board with a trans-inclusive ENDA, according to advocates who have worked with him on the bill, with political — but not practical — concerns.

Sparks — who made headlines herself when she was honored by HRC at an awards dinner in San Francisco last month and took the opportunity to speak to the organization about the discrimination faced by transgenders — said that the recent push by both NGLTF and HRC for gender identity inclusion "is big for our community." She said credit goes to all the tireless activists across the country who have lobbied organizations and legislators. "I think it's a combination of all of our efforts."

Local transgender activist Marcus Arana was big on praise for NGLTF, but remained critical of HRC, saying "It's about time" in reference to HRC's policy change, adding that leaving gender identity out of ENDA for a decade was "out and out transphobia." Arana said that NGLTF Executive Director Matt Foreman, in acknowledging his transphobia, perhaps allowed others to realize "it was okay for them to change their minds."

Sparks said that HRC's inclusion of gender identity in ENDA would hopefully carry over to the hate crimes bill and other pieces of legislation as well.

Local gay attorney Scott Wiener, who sits on HRC's national board, said that logistically that would make sense, although only ENDA — the organization's legislative centerpiece — has been discussed.

"I'm thrilled that we made this decision," Wiener said, adding that years of conversations eventually led to widespread support for adding gender identity protections to the bill. "I'm very proud of HRC for going in this direction. HRC represents and advocates for the LGBT community in its entirety, and it's important that we always do that, and this decision moves us in that direction." ▼

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY from the Healthy Penis

My fellow citizens, most of you know that for over two years I have been working my butt off providing information to you about the syphilis epidemic in San Francisco. I've met many of you at Gay Pride, street fairs and in bars and clubs. I think you like me and appreciate all my efforts – **I can feel the love.**

However, some have complained that I'm a joke. They say my stories are silly and that I don't take syphilis seriously. **Believe me, no one in this town is more serious about syphilis than me.** I happen to think that learning about syphilis can be fun. But, people who want to see photos of sores or who want more facts and figures can find that on my website – www.healthypenis2004.org.

A lot of people seem to want to know more statistics about how syphilis is spreading. Everyone who gets syphilis is interviewed by the Department of Public Health. **Some trends have emerged.** For instance, the majority of men who are getting syphilis are HIV positive. In fact, it appears that **positive men are 2-3 times more likely to get it.**

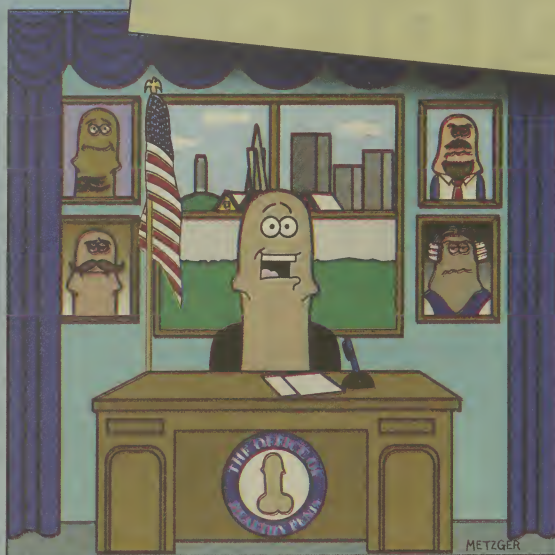
Use of crystal meth is also reported by a lot of guys who have syphilis. **Meth users are up to 4 times more likely to get syphilis** than guys who do not use meth.

Finally, a majority of men getting syphilis said that they hook-up with guys online.

We know that all gay men who are out there having sex could be getting and passing syphilis. Men who have more partners and use less protection are more likely to get infected. Guys who are HIV positive, use meth, or meet online are at higher risk.

The most important thing is that we all need to get tested.
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D.C.: Gay scene with international flair

by Ed Walsh

know people whose little black book is like a passport," gay Washington, D.C. resident Charles Coveleski told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "A friend told me that Ireland and Nicaragua are the only two countries he hasn't slept with."

Although the San Francisco Bay Area and most large metropolitan areas claim to have a diverse gay population, none has anything on "The District," as locals call it. Coveleski once managed the city's well-known Lambda Rising bookstore and noticed that Washington's penchant for diversity was reflected even in the tastes of the gay men who bought pornographic magazines, with publications that specialize in men from other countries or men of color outpacing the sale of Falcon-esque magazines.

Heightened security measures in the wake of the September 11 attacks and the more recent threat warnings have had little impact on the gay areas of the city. That's in sharp contrast to many government buildings and monuments that have taken on a fortress-like appearance with concrete barriers and armed guards.

Coveleski is currently a sales manager at the Radisson Barcelo, a hotel popular with gay tourists because of its location in the heart of the gay Dupont Circle neighborhood (a.k.a. "Bouffant Circle"). Coveleski and the Radisson's director of sales and marketing, Jim Bischoff, also openly gay, have noticed first-hand the important



The bustling Dupont Circle area of Washington, D.C.

financial impact of gay tourism to the Capital City. They estimate that about a third of their hotel guests are gay.

Washington's gay bars are also known for drawing large numbers of active military members. And despite recent efforts by activists to expose gay legislative aides who work for antigay politicians, the predominant attitude among most Capital gays is to keep politics and play separate.

Diversity and politics aside, Washington is home to a large and growing gay community. Riding that trend, its convention and visitors bureau launched an initiative last year to court the gay market that includes taking full-page ads

out in gay publications. Its official Web site, Washington.org, prominently features a section for gay visitors.

"Washington has taken a very proactive stance to welcome the gay market," affirmed Hector Torres, the openly gay vice president of Capital Hotels, which owns the gay-friendly St. Gregory and Governor's House hotels.

Gay visitors have also helped bolster the city's normally slow summer tourist market.

"Years ago it was a deserted city after June 15," Torres noted.

The historical gay center of Washington is Dupont Circle. In the 1960s, it became a popular gathering place for hippies

protesting the Vietnam War.

The clubs in the Dupont Circle area include the popular Omega (2122 P Street NW), the Apex dance bar (1415 22nd Street NW) and The Fireplace (2161 P Streets NW at 22nd Street).

In recent years, an area of 17th Street, between P and U streets, has overtaken Dupont Circle as the area with the most gay businesses. It's home to Cobalt (1639 R Street NW), JR's (1519 17th Street NW), the Levi/leather-themed Green Lantern/Tool Shed (1335 Green Court NW), and Dik (1637 17th Street NW).

The newest gay area is forming nearby on 14th Street, near U Street, anchored by the popular

Hamburger Mary's, the Titan bar just upstairs from Mary's, and the Crew Club, a bathhouse.

The three aforementioned gay areas are in walking distance of each other and are close to the Dupont Circle Metro station.

A small cluster of gay bars including the lesbian club Phase One, (a.k.a. The Phase, 525 8th Street SE) and the popular country and western bar Remington's, (639 Pennsylvania Avenue SE) can be found in the Southeast neighborhood, near the Capitol building. You'll also find the popular gay-friendly restaurant and bar Mr. Henry's (601 Pennsylvania Avenue SE) and the Banana Cafe and Piano Bar (500 8th Street SE) there.

Besides its deserved reputation for diversity, Washington's gay scene is known for another unique feature — completely nude gay strip bars. They are centered south of Capitol Hill, near the Navy Yard Metro station. The clubs include Ziegfeld's/Secrets (1345 Half Street SE), Wet (52 L Street SE), and the Follies (24 O Street SE). That area, primarily industrial, is also home to the bathhouses Club Washington and the Glorious Health Club (a.k.a. the Glory Holes). Be warned that it's a dicey neighborhood. A cab is a good way to get there, especially late at night. Unlike most of Washington, there's plenty of free parking there if you are in a rental car.

Where to stay

There are no exclusively gay hotels in the District but below are

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SHOWGIRLS. SHOW BOYS. NEVER A DRAG.

Anything can happen in Las Vegas
with gay-friendly deals from Orbitz!

ORBITZ AND GO!™
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So keep *undetectable* as your treatment goal, even if previous regimens have failed you.

If you are treatment experienced, with FUZEON in your regimen you may still get to undetectable.

In fact, compared to HIV treatment regimens *without* FUZEON, having FUZEON in your combination regimen means you may:

- be twice as likely to get to undetectable and
- get twice the increase in T cells

FUZEON fights HIV in a completely different way. It's the *only* anti-HIV medicine that works *outside* the T cell to block HIV from getting inside and infecting healthy cells.

So tell your doctor you don't want to accept a detectable viral load. Tell your doctor you're ready to fight in a completely different way—with FUZEON.

To find out more about FUZEON and how it works, visit www.FUZEON.com or call the FUZEON Answer Center at 1-877-4 FUZEON (1-877-438-9366).

 **FUZEON.**
enfuvirtide

Indication: FUZEON (enfuvirtide) is used with other anti-HIV medicines to treat HIV-1 infection in patients who have taken anti-HIV medicines (treatment-experienced) and have detectable viral loads even though they are taking anti-HIV medicines. This indication is based on viral loads and CD4 (T-cell) counts in studies of FUZEON that lasted 24 weeks. Patients in the studies were treatment-experienced adults, and many of them had advanced HIV disease. There are no studies of FUZEON in patients who haven't taken anti-HIV medicines. There are no results from studies looking at the effect of FUZEON on the progression of HIV disease.

Important Safety Information

Injection Site Reactions (ISRs): ISRs are the most common side effect seen with FUZEON use. Almost all people taking FUZEON (98%) get injection site reactions. 3% of patients quit taking FUZEON because of ISRs. Reactions are usually mild to moderate but occasionally may be severe. Signs/symptoms may include pain and discomfort, hardened skin, redness, bumps, itching and swelling. 9% of patients had ISRs that required them to take over-the-counter pain medicine or limit their usual activities.

Pneumonia: Patients taking FUZEON with other anti-HIV medicines got bacterial pneumonia more often than patients not taking FUZEON. It is unclear if this was related to the use of FUZEON. You should contact your healthcare provider right away if you have a cough, fever or trouble breathing. Patients are more likely to get bacterial pneumonia if they have a low number of CD4 cells, have a high viral load, use intravenous (injected into the vein) drugs, smoke or have had lung disease in the past.

Allergic reactions: Allergic reactions have been seen with FUZEON and can occur if FUZEON is restarted. Symptoms of a serious allergic reaction with FUZEON can include rash, fever, nausea and vomiting, chills, shaking, low blood pressure and increased liver enzymes. Other adverse events that may be an immune response and have been reported in patients taking FUZEON include serious immune system reactions, severe breathing difficulties, inflammation of the kidney and Guillain-Barre syndrome.

Other Side Effects: The side effects seen most often in patients taking FUZEON with their other anti-HIV medicines were diarrhea (26.8%), nausea (20.1%) and fatigue (16.1%). These side effects were seen less often than in patients taking anti-HIV medicines without FUZEON: diarrhea (33.5%), nausea (23.7%) and fatigue (17.4%). This list of side effects is not complete because FUZEON is still being studied.

If you have questions about side effects, ask your healthcare provider. Report any new or worsening symptoms to your healthcare provider.



FUZEON® is not a cure for HIV infection or AIDS. FUZEON does not prevent the transmission of HIV. For additional details on FUZEON, please see the accompanying summary of complete product information.

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PATIENT INFORMATION

FUZEON® (FEW-zee-on)

Generic Name: enfuvirtide (en-FEW-ver-tide) for Injection

This leaflet contains important information for patients and their caregivers about FUZEON. Please read this leaflet and FUZEON Injection Instructions carefully before you start using FUZEON. Always read the section "Changes since the last version of this leaflet" at the end of this leaflet each time you get your FUZEON prescription refilled. There may be important new information about the use of FUZEON.

This information does not take the place of talking with your healthcare provider about your medical conditions or treatment.

What is FUZEON?

FUZEON is a medicine called an HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) fusion inhibitor. FUZEON is always used with other anti-HIV medicines to treat adults and children aged 6 years and older with HIV infection. FUZEON is not used by itself to treat HIV infection.

FUZEON blocks HIV's ability to infect healthy CD4 cells. When used with other anti-HIV medicines, FUZEON can reduce the amount of HIV in the blood and increase the number of CD4 cells. This may keep your immune system healthy, so it can help fight infection.

FUZEON does not cure HIV infection or AIDS. The long-term effects of FUZEON are not known at this time. People taking FUZEON may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that can happen with HIV infection. **For these reasons, it is very important that you remain under the care of your healthcare provider while taking FUZEON.**

Does FUZEON lower the chance of passing HIV to other people?

FUZEON does not lower your chance of passing HIV to other people through unprotected sex, sharing needles or being exposed to your blood. For your own health and the health of others, it is important to continue to practice safer sex. Use a latex or polyurethane condom or other barrier method to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions or blood. Never use or share dirty needles. Ask your healthcare provider if you have any questions about safer sex or how to prevent passing HIV to other people.

Who should not use FUZEON?

Do not use FUZEON if you are allergic to any of the ingredients in FUZEON. See the end of this leaflet for a list of ingredients in FUZEON.

Tell your healthcare provider:

- If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. We do not know if FUZEON can harm your unborn child. You and your healthcare provider will need to decide if FUZEON is right for you. If you use FUZEON while you are pregnant, talk with your healthcare provider about how you can be in the Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry.
- If you are breast-feeding. You should not breast-feed if you are HIV-positive because of the chance of passing HIV to your baby. Also, it is not known if FUZEON can pass into your breast milk and if it can harm your baby.
- about all your medical conditions.
- about all the medicines you use, including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins and herbal supplements. FUZEON has not been tested with all medicines.

How should I use FUZEON?

Before you use FUZEON, make sure you understand all of the information in this leaflet and the FUZEON Injection Instructions that come with your medicine. You or your caregiver should be trained by a healthcare provider before injecting it. If you do not understand all the information, talk with your healthcare provider about your questions or concerns.

- Use FUZEON with other anti-HIV medicines. **Do not use FUZEON as your only anti-HIV medicine.**
- FUZEON must be injected. FUZEON does not work if it is swallowed.
- Do not mix other medicines in the same syringe with FUZEON.
- FUZEON is given under the skin by injection ("a shot") in the upper arm, upper leg or abdomen two times a day. See the FUZEON Injection Instructions that come with your medicine for step-by-step instructions about how to inject FUZEON.
- Do not inject FUZEON in the same area as you did the time before. Do not inject FUZEON into the following areas: around the navel (belly button), scar tissue, a bruise or a mole, or where there is an injection site reaction.
- Do not inject FUZEON if you see particles floating in the FUZEON vial after you mix it.
- You can use FUZEON whether you have eaten or not. Food does not affect FUZEON. However, you must keep taking your other medicines the way you did before.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking FUZEON without first talking with your healthcare provider.
- See your healthcare provider regularly while using FUZEON.
- When your FUZEON supply runs low, be sure to have it refilled. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. If you miss or skip doses of FUZEON, HIV may develop resistance to FUZEON and become harder to treat.
- If you miss a dose of FUZEON, take the missed dose as soon as you can and then take your next dose as scheduled. If you have missed a dose of FUZEON and it is close to the time when you are supposed to take your next dose, wait and take the next dose as regularly scheduled. Do not take two doses of FUZEON at the same time.

Rx ONLY

• If you take too much FUZEON, call your healthcare provider right away. We do not know what can happen if you take too much FUZEON. You will be watched very carefully if you take too much FUZEON.

• **It is important that you put your used syringes into a special sharps container after injecting FUZEON.** Your healthcare provider will give you more instructions about the safe disposal of your used syringes. **Do not put them in a trash can.** If you do not have a sharps container, call your healthcare provider or pharmacist to get one before using FUZEON.

Can FUZEON be used with other medicines?

• FUZEON does not affect other anti-HIV medicines or the medicine rifampin (also known as rifampicin and manufactured under the brand names Rifadin® and Rimactane®). You can take FUZEON at the same times or at different times than your other anti-HIV medicines.

What should I avoid while using FUZEON?

- Avoid doing anything that can spread HIV infection, since FUZEON does not stop you from passing the HIV infection to others.
- Do not share needles or other injection equipment.
- Do not share personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them, like toothbrushes or razor blades.
- Do not have any kind of sex without protection. Always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom or other barrier method to reduce the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions or blood.
- Do not drive or operate heavy machinery if FUZEON makes you feel dizzy.

What are the possible side effects of FUZEON?

Injection site reactions

FUZEON causes injection site reactions. Almost all people get injection site reactions with FUZEON. Reactions are usually mild to moderate but occasionally may be severe. Reactions on the skin where FUZEON is injected include:

- itching
- swelling
- redness
- pain or tenderness
- hardened skin
- bumps

These reactions generally happen within the first week of FUZEON treatment and usually happen again as you keep using FUZEON. A reaction at one skin injection site usually lasts for less than 7 days.

Injection site reactions may be worse when injections are given again in the same place on the body or when the injection is given deeper than it should be (for example, into the muscle).

If you are worried about the reaction you are having, call your healthcare provider to help you decide if you need medical care. **If the injection site reaction you are having is severe, call your healthcare provider right away.** If you have an injection site reaction, you can discuss with your healthcare provider ways to help the symptoms.

An injection site can get infected. To lower your chances of getting an injection site infection, it is important to follow the FUZEON Injection Instructions that come with your medicine. **Call your healthcare provider right away if there are signs of infection at the injection site such as oozing, increasing heat, swelling, redness or pain.**

Pneumonia

Patients with HIV get bacterial pneumonia more often than patients without HIV. In clinical trials, patients taking FUZEON with other HIV medicines got bacterial pneumonia more often than patients not receiving FUZEON. It is unclear if this was related to the use of FUZEON. **You should contact your healthcare provider right away if you have a cough, fever or trouble breathing.** Patients are more likely to get bacterial pneumonia if they had a low number of CD4 cells, increased amount of HIV in the blood, intravenous (injected into the vein) drug use, smoking or had experienced lung disease in the past. It is unclear if pneumonia is related to FUZEON.

Allergic reactions

FUZEON can cause serious allergic reactions. Symptoms of a serious allergic reaction with FUZEON can include:

- trouble breathing
- fever with vomiting and a skin rash
- blood in your urine
- swelling of your feet

Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of these symptoms.

Other side effects

The following side effects were seen more often in patients using FUZEON with their other anti-HIV medicines than in patients not using FUZEON with their other anti-HIV medicines:

- pain and numbness in feet or legs
- loss of sleep
- depression
- decreased appetite
- weakness or loss of strength
- muscle pain
- constipation
- pancreas problems

These are not all the side effects of FUZEON. The list of side effects with FUZEON is not complete at this time because FUZEON is still being studied.

If you have questions about side effects, ask your healthcare provider. **Report any new or continuing symptoms to your healthcare provider.** Your healthcare provider will tell you what to do and may be able to help you with these side effects.

How is FUZEON stored?

FUZEON vials not mixed with sterile water can be stored at room temperature (59° to 86°F). FUZEON should be refrigerated if it cannot be stored at room temperature. The Sterile Water for Injection (diluent) may be stored at room temperature (59° to 86°F).

After FUZEON has been mixed with the sterile water, the vial can be stored in a refrigerator for up to 24 hours.

Do not use FUZEON or sterile water after the expiration date on the vials. Do not keep FUZEON that is out of date or that you no longer need.

General information about the safe and effective use of FUZEON

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions not mentioned in patient information leaflets. Do not use FUZEON for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give FUZEON to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them. **Keep FUZEON and all medicines out of the reach of children.**

This leaflet summarizes the most important information about FUZEON. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider or see the section, "Where can I get more information about FUZEON?" in this leaflet. You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for information about FUZEON that is written for healthcare professionals.

What are the ingredients in FUZEON?

Active Ingredients: enfuvirtide

Inactive Ingredients: Mannitol, sodium carbonate, sodium hydroxide and hydrochloric acid.

FUZEON comes packaged as a convenience kit containing the following:

- 60 vials of FUZEON (2 cartons of 30 each)
- 60 vials of Sterile Water for Injection (2 cartons of 30 each)
- syringes for mixing (3 mL/cc)
- syringes for injecting (1 mL/cc)
- alcohol pads
- injection instructions

Call your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you need more supplies.

Where can I get more information about FUZEON?

The best source for more information about FUZEON is your healthcare provider. More information about FUZEON is located at www.fuzeon.com and 1-877-4 FUZEON (1-877-438-9366).

Changes since the last version of this leaflet

This is the first version of this leaflet; it was written in March 2003. Please check this section when your medicine is refilled for any important new information about FUZEON.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

D.C.

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a sampling of some gay-friendly ones. Rooms start at about \$100, but check the hotels for specials, particularly in the summer or when Congress is in recess. You can find a three-star hotel in the city for as little as \$50 during off-peak times through Priceline.com.

• Radisson Barcelo, 2121 P Street NW, a great location in the

heart of the gay Dupont Circle area. Short walking distance to a number of gay clubs.

• Washington Plaza Hotel, 10 Thomas Circle NW, is known for its expansive pool, one of the largest in Washington. It has 340 rooms and 370 "pool members," residents who pay a \$400 annual fee to use the very gay-friendly pool. Day use is \$25. The hotel has hosted a number of gay events. Just last month, it hosted a pool party fundraiser for the National

Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

• Hotel Helix (1430 Rhode Island Avenue NW). Each room in this boutique hotel, owned by the San Francisco-based Kimpton Hotels, is a piece of pop art to itself. It features an "Over the Rainbow" weekend special that it began in June 2004 in honor of the city's Pride events. For \$329 per night, you'll get massages for two, a bottle of champagne, a copy of the *Washington Blade*, a GLBT city guide and a "pot of gold candy as a sweet finale."

• St. Gregory Hotel on 2033 M Street, NW. Even if you're not staying there, stop in the lobby to take a picture with a life-sized replica of Marilyn Monroe. The replica replicates the famous picture of Monroe with her skirt swirling. The St. Gregory's sister hotel, the Governor's House, is at 1615 Rhode Island Street NW at 17th Street, close to the 17th Street clubs. It currently features a weekend summer special of \$130 for two nights.

Getting around

Washington has a very easy, safe, clean, and efficient subway system. Its routes are color-coded. The system is similar to BART, in that your fare is dependent on how far you go. If you decide to

rent a car, be aware that parking is very difficult around most of Washington including the gay Dupont Circle and 17th Street areas.

The sights

Most of Washington's most popular attractions, including the monuments, the Smithsonian, and the Holocaust Museum are free. Be sure to take the walk through the National Mall. You'll pass the Washington Monument, the new World War II Memorial, and the Vietnam Memorial. If it's hot, you can take the walk at night.

Getting there

The airlines are offering rock-bottom fares between the Bay Area and Washington. For as low as \$183 round-trip, including all fees and taxes, you can fly between Oakland and the Reagan National Airport. Reagan is a short Metro ride to the heart of the city and much more convenient than Dulles Airport. You'll pay only slightly more if you want to fly out of San Francisco International Airport or San Jose's airport. Travelocity.com offers a good search engine to find the best prices. Also, check out JetBlue.com. Travelocity doesn't search Jet Blue, but the airline of-

For more information

The city's visitors and convention bureau: Washington.org. Click on the rainbow stripe for LGBT-specific information or phone (202) 789-7000.

For an up-to-date Washington gay guide: MetroWeekly.net. Click on the nightlife tab or check out FunMaps.com. But Fun Maps won't be as current as Metro.

Washington gay dates:

October 8: Human Rights Campaign annual dinner

October 14-23: Reel Affirmations: International Gay/Lesbian Film Festival.

January 14-16, 2005: Mid-Atlantic Leather Festival.

June 5-12, 2005: Capital Pride.

fers nonstop service between Oakland and Dulles airport for \$99 each way. By the way, if you fly into Reagan, try to get a window seat. You'll have a spectacular view of the monuments on your approach to the airport. ▼

Ex-gay minister

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Spanish. "In school I began to keep away from girls."

By age 12 Reddy said he began smoking marijuana and using other drugs. Apparently while high and listening to heavy metal rock music, Reddy and his male friends would "have naked orgies under drugs. We didn't think it anything bad. I felt comfort with my friends."

Then in college, Reddy said he attended a Christian meeting held by an American Universalist evangelist where he found God and began to change his life. Since then he said he became a minister and has spoken around the world, helping other men leave behind their homosexual lifestyle through prayer and Jesus Christ.

By coming this past Saturday to the Castro, Reddy said he was returning the favor of the American who saved his soul.

"I am not here to pick on your lifestyle or to condemn you. I

want to let you know about the grace of God that changes the human soul," he said.

With the event's sound system facing away from the portion of the park where many gay men were sunning themselves, Reddy's speech was barely audible and did not prompt any protests. Supervisor Bevan Dufty, after being told of the event on Friday, notified city officials about the group's flyers.

The group had obtained a permit from the city for the event. But after being read the flyer's language, city officials asked the organizers to be sensitive "about what they say and how they conduct themselves in this neighborhood," according to Dufty. ▼

News in brief

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for more information, call (415) 292-3420, ext. 304 or visit www.apowellness.org.

CCSF parenting class

City College of San Francisco will offer an encore of what is believed to be the first LGBT parenting class, which will focus on the challenges faced by queer parents and their children. The course will be offered on Monday nights beginning August 23, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at James Lick Middle School, 1220 Noe Street.

"Supporting Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Families in Early Childhood Education" is the title of the three-unit course that was developed by the school's Department of Child Development and Family Studies and Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Studies. It was offered for the first time last year.

The cost for the course is \$89 (\$26 per unit plus an \$11 health fee). For more information, visit www.ccsf.edu or call Bruce Smith, dean of the School of Liberal Arts and the Castro-Valencia Campus at (415) 239-3720.

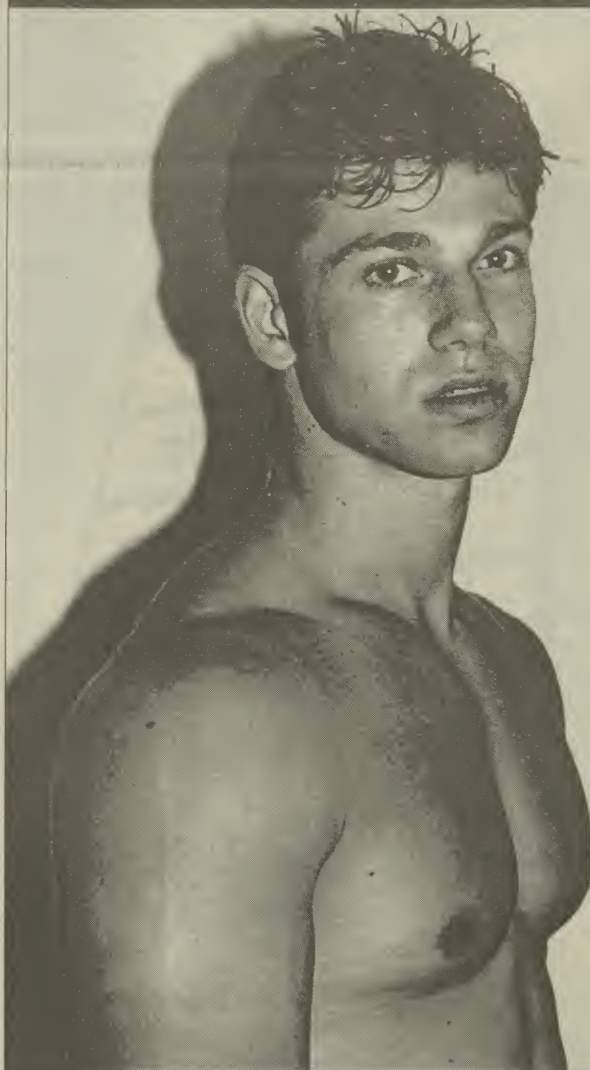
Horizons grant cycle open

The Horizons Foundation has announced that its next funding cycle is the community issues grants, and applications are being accepted until Wednesday, August 25. Nonprofit organizations and projects that serve the LGBT community in the Bay Area are eligible for funding. Grants are made in five areas: advocacy, awareness, and civil rights; arts and culture; children, youth, and families; elders; and health and human services.

Diverse panels of community members will evaluate proposals and make grant recommendations, Horizons staff said.

The application and eligibility requirements can be found at www.horizonsfoundation.org. Click on grants. ▼

MAKE A NEW FRIEND AT SFBADLANDS



You never
know who
you'll meet at
SFBADLANDS

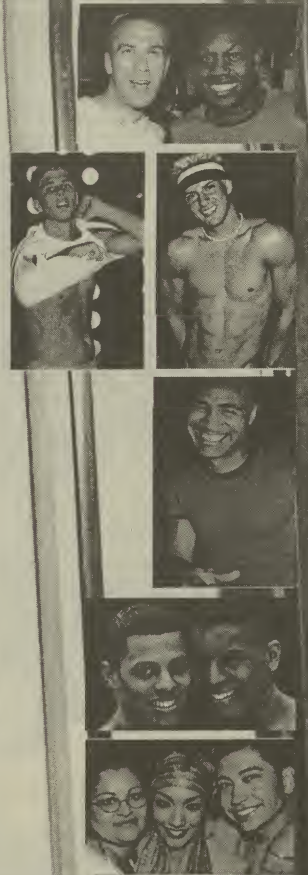


Photo: stevenunderhill.com / Model-muscleadonis.com

SFBADLANDS Dancing Every Night / Everyone Welcome
Domestic Bottled Beer \$1.25 / Well Drinks \$3.50 / Must be 21 w/ID
Happy Hour Cocktails "2 for 1" Mon-Sat til 8PM

Oakland Pride

◀ page 1

uled beginning this weekend and continuing again in the fall.

This year's Oakland Pride includes an A's game on Saturday, August 14; the third annual "Black in the Life" week of Pride events beginning August 16; a film festival, concerts, and the annual Dyke March on Saturday, August 28 [for more on East Bay Pride events, see story, next page].

And while there will be no centralized "Pride Festival" with multiple stages and vendors this year, the Dyke March includes a day-long festival that has always welcomed supportive men; a "Family Festival" takes place on Saturday, August 21; and an LGBT-organized festival is scheduled for October around the idea of creating a gay neighborhood and planning future Pride activities.

Oakland Pride community participants who agreed to speak for this story positively framed the revamped celebration, as a "diverse grassroots effort," according to Merle Yost, founder of the on-line LGBT news site *East Bay Voice*; and as an event that has been brought "back to the people," according to Peggy Moore,



Peggy Moore, of Sistahs Steppin' in Pride

founder of the East Bay Dyke March, known as Sistahs Steppin' in Pride.

"We're re-inventing Pride in the East Bay," said Moore. "It's okay to do something unique and different here. Everyone is welcome and we're going to have a good time."

But the collective mood that contributed to the sabbatical of East Bay Pride and the launch of this year's LGBT community events in Oakland has not always been chipper.

Last year, said East Bay Pride's King, he was invited to an LGBT roundtable meeting hosted by openly gay City Council member Danny Wan. These roundtables for the community began about two years ago, said Wan, and are currently focused on the creation of an LGBT district; services and programs; and Pride. At the meeting in question, King said he was met with hostility, while Wan maintains that King was invited to be a part of a discussion that included concerns about how East Bay Pride was run.

"It was basically a bitch session," said King, who described how community members who he had long tapped for ideas and support were suddenly claiming to be left out of the Pride planning process.

"[East Bay Pride] had done an extremely good job of putting women and people of color first and foremost at the events. We were instrumental in getting Oakland and Berkeley to institute diversity trainings. And we brought several international events to

Oakland. A lot of community members had some vague bitching, but when we asked, 'Will you be a part of it? Will you make changes?' of course nobody stepped up to the plate."

King added that "there is not a Pride in the country" that doesn't have its critics, and that he remained willing and able to work with people to address their concerns. But that meeting, he said, was followed by the city of Oakland dropping its funding contribution by about \$40,000 just before last year's event. East Bay Pride continued as planned, said King, but it had to rack up debt to do it.

In debt

East Bay Pride Inc. is currently about \$10,000 in the hole, said King, who throughout the Pride festival's run was able to pay himself an occasional salary, he said, of about \$1,000 a month. The organization, however, is fiscally sponsoring his new project, the Hairrison Street Fair, for which he also put up much of his own money.

Wan disputes King's versions of events, and told the *Bay Area Reporter* that, "a month before the event he says, 'How much money can the city give us?' He does this

every year for five years now, and I just can't deal with it. Every year we agree to subsidize a certain amount, and he's been getting the biggest subsidy of any cultural festival. And every year he gets deeper into the financial hole and asks for a bigger amount. We can't do business like that anymore."

Wan said community concerns had a lot to do with the financial viability of East Bay Pride, and that while King was always invited to the roundtables, at a certain point he just stopped attending, initiating communication only to ask for further funding.

"We always thought East Bay Pride would be a part of our discussions; regardless of what you want to say about Pete King, he was the one who did it, and we all respected that," said Wan. "But it also has to evolve, if things need to be different."

When last year's event was over, said King, he and his board felt betrayed by the city over the lack of funding, and he didn't want to fight with community members over the event, either. He also moved back to San Francisco, he said, and felt awkward about organizing the East Bay event from the city.

East Bay Pride organizers decided to take a break. King said he asked Wan if other community members wanted to take it over, but that communication has been poor and thus far, "nobody has picked up the bat," said King.

Oakland community members would beg to differ, of course, considering the assortment of LGBT activities in the works. These activities just aren't billed as East Bay Pride events. They can't be.

Although it may appear innocuous to use those three words to describe Pride in the East Bay, the name, "East Bay Pride," belongs to King's organization, and King told the *B.A.R.* he has advised community members not to use it, in order to avoid confusion.

After Hairrison is over, said King, he will probably change the name of his organization. But he also said that if another group wanted to take over the name, East Bay Pride, they should also expect to take over the debt.

"If people want to step in and take the name they should take the debt as a responsibility," he said.

For his part, King said he is hoping East Bay Pride continues, as it was his "labor of love" and he does not want to see the community go without it. One possible scenario, he said, is to get some "new blood" into the organization as volunteers, with King and the board serving as consultants.

One-man show?

Some LGBT individuals who spoke on the condition of anonymity, however, said that for all the fanfare, King never created any sense of community, and the East Bay is better off without the event.

Others, like Alex Loera, a co-owner of Oakland's Bench & Bar, who coordinated the Latin stage for East Bay Pride, said his working relationship with King was "very good" and that he would continue to participate in the festivities, under one condition: "If he comes to us in a timely manner, we most likely will do it again," said Loera. "Sometimes we don't hear anything until the last minute."

Wan said he is focusing on the positive aspects of his roundtable meetings, including the LGBT events planned for this summer and fall, and is looking forward to further public input into all LGBT related topics. ▼

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'Hairrison' to be big fun

by Louis Anthes

Already home to some of the world's greatest parades and fairs, San Francisco has something new to brag about: the inaugural Hairrison Street Fair.

As its name suggests, the fair aims to draw those people who identify with bears – that elusive gay identity associated sometimes with fur, sometimes with girth, but almost always with laid-back fun.

But the fair also aspires to bring people – all people – together for a good time.

"Bears, gym queens, trannies, geezers, dykes, twinkies – all people – men of all sizes and all colors," explained Pete King, chairman of the Hairrison Street Fair.

King was also the president and founder of East Bay Pride Inc., but that event is not taking place this year in its same form [see related story, page 1].

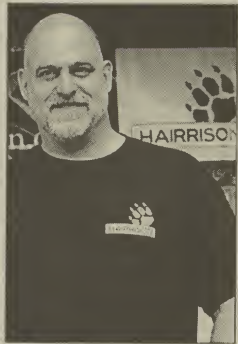
The bear movement has been growing over the last 20 years and has seen tremendous success. In cities around the world, there are bear bars, magazines, contests and parties.

Here in San Francisco, bears often prowls the Lone Star Saloon, party at the annual International Bear Rendezvous each February, and camp out at the Russian River for Lazy Bear Weekend in July.

Harry Lit, the head of Castro Bear Presents, which organizes Lazy Bear Weekend in Guerneville, is enthusiastic about the Hairrison Street Fair.

"We're strongly supportive of Hairrison. They came out at Lazy Bear and really helped us raise money for the community," Lit said.

Thousands of people invaded Guerneville at Lazy Bear last month, making it one of the most successful events of its kind.



"Hairrison" producer Pete King

The Hairrison Street Fair, however, will take the bear movement to the San Francisco streets.

"There is a political agenda," King said. "It's about people feeling good about themselves and with each other. It's about dropping the attitude – any attitude."

Many men who identify with the bears say that gay culture, particularly as it is represented in the media, can feel oppressive. Youthful, style-obsessed metrosexuality remains a dominant image of gay men. Those who don't stand up to it often feel marginalized. The bear movement reverses that marginality.

Mark Katzenberger, production coordinator for the fair, believes it is no coincidence that the bear movement is strongly rooted in San Francisco. "This is a non-judgmental city," he said. "It embraces diversity, in addition to having a strong sense of gay history."

As for King, he believes Hairrison is following in the footsteps of the Castro, Up Your Alley, and Folsom Street fairs. "They earned the respect of the community. And we want to, too, and give something back."

Proceeds from the event will benefit a variety of nonprofit sports and health organizations, including the San Francisco Fog rugby team, the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, Stop AIDS Project, and the AIDS Emergency Fund.

The event will kick off with three bands at the Eagle Tavern, 398 12th Street, on Thursday, August 12. On Friday, August 13, fairgoers can watch the Olympics with the muscle bears at the nearby Best Western, at 9th and Harrison, and on Saturday, they can enjoy the "Bears Gone Wild" pool party at the same location. The event closes out on Sunday, August 15, with a street fair on Harrison Street between 9th and 10th streets. Admission to the fair is \$5 per person.

Anyone looking to spend their time at more than one event can purchase a "Hairrison Bear Tag" weekend pass, which costs \$75, King said. The pass gets the wearer full access to all events, plus a T-shirt, poster, video, coupon book, and goodie bag. And partner events, such as PlanetBig and the fourth annual BearHug party, will give discounts to tag holders.

People on a budget can also enjoy the fair. They can show up at specific events being held at the bars without paying for the weekend pass. Also, volunteers who help out at two or more Hairrison events can get a free bear tag. ▼

For more information, visit www.Hairrison.org.



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Oakland Pride events

by Zak Szymanski

It's on! Oakland LGBT Pride this year features old favorites and new adventures with a series of events geared toward the diversity of the entire community. Additionally, a groundbreaking transgender event is happening in Hayward this weekend.

On Saturday, August 14, join baseball fans for **Out at the Ballpark**, to watch the Oakland A's play the Kansas City Royals at 1:05 p.m. The event is sponsored by *East Bay Voice* and tickets are available at www.eastbayvoice.com.

Also on August 14, and unrelated to Oakland Pride, the first ever all-transgender event will take place in Hayward, where a mistrial was recently declared in the case against three men charged with murdering East Bay transgender teenager Gwen Araujo. Tiffany Woods Productions presents "**Hear Our Voice**" at the Rainbow Room, 21859 Mission Boulevard. The 8 p.m. talent show will raise money for the Gwen Araujo Memorial Fund and the Alameda County Transvision Transgender Program for HIV Prevention. Call (510) 713-6690, ext. 9 for more information.

August 16-22 is the third annual **Bay Area Black in the Life** GLBT Pride Week Celebration, with additional receptions and gatherings held to honor commu-

nity members. Complete details are available at www.BBTL.net.

Tuesday, August 17 from 6 to 9 p.m. and Sunday August 22 from 3 to 6 p.m. are the dates of the **Oakland International Black GLBT Film Festival**, at the Parkway Speakeasy Theater, 1834 Park Boulevard. This is the first event of its kind locally, and one of only two in the world. Admission is \$8; tickets and information are available at (510) 814-2400 or at www.apeb.org.

Saturday, August 21, from noon to 6 p.m. is the **Family Festival** at Lake Temescal, Big Rock Area. Bring a picnic lunch; games and activities will be provided for children. Call (510) 869-4403 or visit www.NiaCollective.org for more information.

Also on August 21 is the fifth annual **Invitational Pride Concert**, featuring the Oakland East Bay Gay Men's Chorus; the Lesbian Chorale Ensemble; Out on a Clef; and the Lesbian and Gay Chorus of San Francisco. Tickets are available at www.oebgmc.org, or by calling 800-706-2389.

On Sunday, August 22, is the **Montclair Women's Big Band Concert** featuring 17 women musicians in tribute to the swing era of the 1930s and 1940s. Tickets are \$27 online and \$28 at the door. Visit www.eastbayvoice.org/tickets or call (510) 339-1832.

And finally, Saturday August 28 is the third annual **Sistahs Step-**

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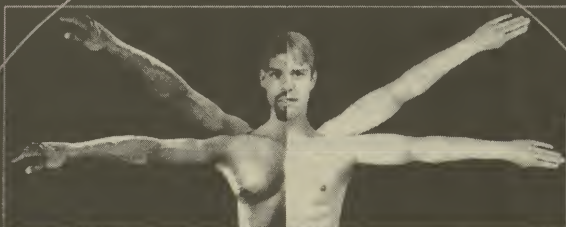
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SF fire chief

◀ page 1

damage control," Gray said this week. "I think the gay community should be very upset about this."

In 2001, as the fire department's director of training, Hayes-White said some of the new recruits questioned the overall job relatedness of the questions on the exam they were given.

But, she said, "I didn't hear anything specifically about homosexuals. At the time I asked the previous chief if I could look at the exam. Due to confidentiality reasons, I was not allowed to look at the exam."

State investigators reviewing Gray's claims were also not allowed to see the exam and ultimately closed the case for lack of evidence. After the state Department of Fair Employment and Housing ended its investigation, agency officials advised Gray he has until this Saturday, August 14, to file a civil lawsuit based on that complaint.

Gray said he intends to file a lawsuit by Friday and has been seeking an attorney to represent him. He had also filed a claim with the city seeking financial compensation for damages totaling nearly \$500,000. Last Thursday, the city attorney's office denied Gray's claim, giving him six months to



Sheriff's deputy Jon Gray

file a lawsuit against the city.

Gray said his ultimate goal is to force the fire department to change its exam. The fire department is scheduled to hold its next entrance exam in at the start of fiscal year 2005, which would be next summer.

Questions raised

Several gay and lesbian firefighters interviewed by the B.A.R. in the past week said they also had heard questions about the department's exam over the years.

"Word on the street is there is a component of the exam that might ascertain if a person is gay or straight," said Keith Baraka, 39,

a firefighter at Station House 6 in the Castro.

When he entered the department seven years ago, Baraka said he did not take a personality test.

"The last few years this personality test has been weighted quite heavily. I am really concerned about that," he said.

Another gay firefighter, who sent the B.A.R. a letter but requested that his name be withheld, said he believes for at least the last 15 years there has been no "explicit intent" to bar gay men from the department. However, he said the problem with the test, which was designed to find people who "fit in" with the department mentality, is that "had the department been truly diverse, it might have worked."

"It is no wonder Jon had such a low score matching personality types with the department. The SFFD has done a great job hiring people of color and women. It has failed miserably at its outreach to gay men. I dare say it has never tried," he states in his letter.

Lieutenant Anita Pratley, who has been with the department 15 years, recalled being approached in the supermarket shortly after the October 2001 exam by a woman who insisted because she was a lesbian "they want to keep me out."

Pratley said other people have also raised questions about the entrance exam.

"I heard people weren't sure what they were measuring and didn't know how they went wrong or how they went right. They walked out of that test not knowing what qualified a person to be a firefighter," said Pratley, who is currently a training officer at the Fire Academy and said she has not seen a copy of the exam. "It's awkward. I never thought of it unfairly targeting a certain social group. I just thought it was a weird test."

Peter Green, a firefighter paramedic at Station 12 in Cole Valley, said he has reservations about the validity of the test.

"I have not seen the test so Gray may be right or he may be wrong. It is possible the test could be biased toward gays and lesbians," said Green. "The new exam, in talking to new people who come in, does not seem to be diversity friendly. I am not sure it fosters hiring a diverse group of people and looking for people who are willing to work in a diverse group. I am not saying it is an out and out bad exam, but it needs to be reviewed and closely looked at."

Acceptance of LGBT recruits

Those interviewed for this article said the San Francisco Fire Department has come a long way since its early days, when it was dominated by straight white men. In 1988 a federal court imposed a consent decree on the department, forcing it to hire women and people of color.

Since then, the department merged with the health department's paramedic unit, which consisted of a very diverse employee group, including several gay men. In the 1990s, efforts were made to recruit within the gay community, especially at Pride when applications were handed out and the fire department had a booth at the festival.

Russ Roeca, an openly gay man who has served on the Fire Commission for the last nine years, said he has never personally heard of any complaints from gay or lesbian firefighters.

"The sentiment in the department overall is people should be treated without harassment. We are respected for our role and the

fire department respects our community and our members," he said.

However, some said the department could do more to address homophobia within the department and recruit within the gay community. They also pointed out they are unaware of an out gay man being named chief of a station house and feel lesbians have an easier time within the department.

The two men who run the EMS unit are out gay men, and several gay men and women serve at the lieutenant rank. But Green said there are no gay or lesbian battalion chiefs and that he only knows of one lesbian in a temporary captain position.

"I would encourage gays and lesbians to join the department but it is a difficult road. I think other professions would be easier to be out and be gay," said Green, 42, who has been employed as a paramedic with the city since 1989. "I don't want to say San Francisco is worse than other fire departments but I don't think it is any better than other fire departments. Most have a real problem, especially with gay firefighters."

"The sentiment in the department overall is people should be treated without harassment. We are respected for our role and the fire department respects our community and our members."

Whereas the city's police department has an employee group for gay and lesbian officers that began two years ago, the fire department does not. Though Green said he and some other gay and lesbian members are in the preliminary stages of forming one.

Actual numbers of how many gay men and lesbians serve in the department are hard to come by, though most said there are more women than men. Out of a department of 1,400 members, one firefighter said he would be surprised if even 2 percent were gay men. He also took issue with comments by Captain Pete Howes, who told the B.A.R. last week that many of his colleagues are gay.

"For him to say that we are representative of the community we serve is laughable. Ask him how many gay male firefighters currently work in the Castro area," he wrote.

He also questioned remarks made by union president John Hanley, who said gay men are welcome in the department's firehouses.

"I have seen and heard first hand, in nearly every firehouse in the city, derogatory comments aimed at homosexuals, women, and the transgendered. In addition, I have seen what happens on the last few days of June. At a time when gay Pride is supposed to be running high, antigay remarks run rampant. It is impossible to escape," he wrote in his letter.

Baraka, who is black, said he believes he is the only out gay man working at the Castro station house. While he said he has not faced any problems since coming to the Castro in January 2002, he said he has had problems at other stations. He said his superiors would pass him up for driving the fire engine, even if he were the senior person that day.

"It is my belief that in the past I have been looked over to fill that position because I was gay," said Baraka, who filed a complaint in the matter. "I can't say I am having problems with my current

firehouse. I know one or two of the people in the firehouse may have a problem. They know I am gay; they tolerate it."

Baraka said he wished more gay men in the department would come out. Personally, he said he knows five, including himself, and close to 20 lesbians.

While he said he doesn't want to judge anyone for deciding to remain closeted, "I don't think any change will be made unless people come out of their comfort zone," adding life in the department "could be a better situation if more gay men were stepping up to the plate making our voice heard."

Green has only been out for the last few years, mostly to his fellow paramedics. He said at times he has heard homophobic comments made over his headset as an engine is driving down the street and someone sees a gay man.

"I don't know if it's a dig because they suspect I am gay or where it comes from. Very few of the firefighters know I am gay. Most who do are females themselves," said Green, who added acceptance of LGBT people within the department varies by one's

age. "A lot of the 20-somethings just don't have problems with gay and lesbian employees. I think for some of the longtime employees it is an issue."

Pratley, who was part of the first group of 12 women to join the department, said she has never felt discriminated against. While she heard a lot of grumbling about the consent decree, she said, "I never felt they resented me. I felt once the rumblings settled down, we would become more of a group."

After her first year, she came out on the job and never really experienced any problems. She has brought her partner to Christmas parties and got married this year. As with Roeca, who also married his partner and has pictures with the command staff from that day, Pratley said her marriage has been celebrated by her coworkers.

Though Pratley does believe it is easier for lesbians to be accepted, she said anyone who proves they have what it takes to be a firefighter will be embraced.

"If you work hard, are nice and likable, I think you can get through the social barriers," she said. Due to living with your coworkers in the firehouse, she added, "in this world people talk more about their prejudices since you live with them. Unfortunately, gay people have a social responsibility to build the bridges. Heterosexuals will help you but the obligation is on your end."

As for the chief, she said it should make no difference what someone's sexual orientation is, whether in hiring or promotions.

"We will be seeing more representation in the upper ranks of the department from homosexuals," Hayes-White said, adding she would support the formation of a gay employee group.

She also said as long as she is chief, "there will be no tolerance of inappropriate behavior in how we serve our customers or the people we work with. By and large we do a good job of embracing our differences." ▼

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OBITUARIES

Glenn Alexander Brown
September 1, 1963 — July 7, 2004)

Glenn Alexander Brown, age 40, suddenly departed this life on July 7, 2004 in San Francisco, California. He is survived by his parents as well as his three sisters, five brothers, twenty-two nieces and nephews, and a host of aunts, uncles and cousins. Glenn took great pride in being the grandson of the late Civil Rights leader Charles Melton. Born in Avondale, PA, Glenn moved to Washington DC in 1997 from Philadelphia before finally settling in San Francisco in 1998. Glenn loved being alive. What made him happiest was being outdoors, being with his family, parties, listening to Ella Fitzgerald, dancing, and trekking everywhere on his bike. His extended family stretches across the globe. He loved his friends and they him. Whether through Philadelphia FIGHT, the Whitman-Walker Clinic (Washington, DC), the Options Project (SF) or ACT UP/Philadelphia, Glenn was a committed AIDS activist/advocate. He was both a gifted landscaper and photographer. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested donations be made in Glenn's name to ACT UP/Philadelphia, P.O. Box 22439, Philadelphia, PA 19110. Glenn was an unforgettable, gentle human being who lived out loud. We miss you.

Thomas Raimond Hansen

Thomas Raimond Hansen, dear friend, brother, uncle, and son, passed away on Saturday, June 26, 2004 at San Francisco General Hospital. He was 52. A talented artist, furniture designer, writer and avid reader, he was particularly obsessed with Marie Antoinette and made beautifully detailed drawings of her and Versailles. He read "books and books and books" about the French Revolution and kept friends entertained with behind-the-scenes stories about his Queen, and her royal family and friends. Tom was born in Germany, grew up in Daly City, and also spent many years

designing furniture in New York before returning to San Francisco. He was a cherished friend, and an eloquent, optimistic, funny, and loving gentleman who we will miss profoundly. He is survived by his brother, Scott; sister-in-law, Lorre; nephews, Matthew and Collin; and father, Robert.

Tom's ashes will be scattered at sea on Saturday, August 14, 2004, the week of his birthday. Friends and family request that any donations be sent to: AIDS Emergency Fund, 1540 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94102, or Maitri Compassionate Care, 401 Dubeo Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94117.

Bradford "Brad" Taylor Hay

Bradford Taylor Hay, 44, of San Francisco, California formerly of Houston, Texas passed away unexpectedly on August 1, 2004. Brad graduated from Texas Tech with a Bachelor's degree in Horticulture. He went on to work for American Airlines for nearly 20 years. He loved softball and landscaping. He was known to his family and friends for his love and kindness. He will be missed by all. Brad was preceded in death by his father Dr. Richard C. Hay. Survived by his mother Martha F. Hay, his siblings Richard, Bill, Anne, Sandy, Holly and numerous nieces, nephews and friends. The memorial will be held at 11:15 a.m. on Saturday, September 11, 2004 at The National AIDS Memorial Grove in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park. Flight Attendants attending are requested to wear either their regular AA or Hawaiian uniform. Soft Ball League Team Members are requested to wear their team uniforms.

Herbert "Rick" Hoefler

Hoefler, Herbert "Rick" in San Francisco August 4, 2004; aged 47 years; beloved partner of Bruce Helmig; best friend of Dale Harned; dear son of Selma Hoefler and the late Herbert Hoefler; dear

brother of Helmut, Wolfgang, Irwin and the late Allie; also survived by many many friends; a 25-year resident of San Francisco, he recently moved to Silver City, NM. Rick worked 18 years for Catholic Healthcare West and the past two years for the City & County of SF Health Dept. Rick loved scuba diving, music, fine dining and a good martini. A Celebration of his Life will be announced.

Neil E. Monello

With grace and in peace, Neil E. Monello, 51, passed on July 31, 2004. We are grateful to Neil for many things — his humor and infectious laugh, his leadership abilities, and his wonderful

cooking. Neil took great pride in his work as an educator. He began his career teaching elementary school and went on to serve for nine years as a principal. He developed curricula for the Cupertino Unified School District, including Math, Science, and programs for the Talented and Gifted, and taught courses in early childhood education as an Associate Professor at Santa Clara University and at San Francisco State University.

Neil was an active member of the Community Advisory Board, Stanford/UCSF AIDS Clinical Trials Units, and himself participated in various Clinical Trials.

Neil experienced a short but fulfilled life and was an inspiration to his friends and colleagues. He showed great determination, courage and spirit to deal with life's obstacles. And from Neil, a special acknowledgement to Dr. Martin Mass for his compassionate long term medical management.

A gathering will be held to honor Neil on Sunday, August 15, 2004 from 1-4 pm. Please contact robcostin@earthlink.net or call 415-252-9869 for specific details.

Donnie L. Tinsley

Donnie L. Tinsley, aka, Tonica Collins, the last to carry on the legacy of the Balloon Girls, died in the company of friends and family on July 15th, 2004. The lights are out at "Hollyrock". Donnie's annual Christmas Extravaganza en-



joyed by revelers from near and far. But his beautiful smile and light from within will not be forgotten. And, the SF Pride Parade will never be the same without Donnie's original, outrageous, award-winning floats. He was also a founding member of the Friends of the Pink Triangle project.

Known as a loyal, generous, zany, fun loving friend, Donnie was a real life urban legend. His incredible love of animals was seen in his very own in-home aviary, fish collection, and dogs, Astro and Juno. He enjoyed his twenty years at the Huntington Hotel where he made many life long friends. He was considered a handyman and a helping hand by many of his friends and family.

He is survived by his adoptive family: father, Arthur Tinsley, brother, Larry Tinsley, mother, Evelyn Baker and step-brother, Richard Baker; and his birth family: brother, Robert Vaughn and wife Shirley, brother, Ray Vaughn and wife, Sandy, sister, Shirley Vaughn, brother, J.C. Vaughn, brother, Jim Vaughn and wife, Pauline, brother, Frank Vaughn and wife, Connie, sister, Pat Dietz and

sister, Vicky David. Donnie is also survived by countless friends and extended family and will be greatly missed. Please join us for a celebration of his life on Sunday, August 29th, 1-4 pm in Golden Gate Park at the Speedway Meadow on JFK Drive, just past 25th Avenue on the left.

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization — and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

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Castro effort

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proved legislation allowing neighborhood commercial areas to form CBDs. Last month, the mayor's office announced the selection of the Polk and Castro for the grants. In September, property owners along Castro and Market streets will be surveyed to gauge how much support there is for forming a CBD.

At the insistence of the LGBT Community Center, the district's boundaries will stretch down to Octavia Street. Ken Stram, the center's director of economic development, said the idea is to unify the entire upper Market business area into a more cohesive district.

"From our perspective, one of the best things that could happen to the center is to improve the whole corridor from Octavia to the Castro. We would like to have a steady stream of people up and down Market Street from the center to the Castro," said Stram. "It makes the whole area more attractive and inviting to encourage business development, encourage tourism and encourage shoppers to come here. If you make the area more attractive then businesses will want to locate in upper Market or grow their business in upper Market."

Another booster of the CBD is Supervisor Bevan Dufty, who sees it dovetailing with his Castro Renaissance initiative and efforts to address issues brought up by residents and merchants along Church Street and Market Street below Safeway.

"I think it can enable the merchants in the neighborhood to

come together and think about services that would really make the Castro a great center for the city," said Dufty. "I think it can allow us to customize security, street cleaning, marketing and other functions in a way that can really allow us to make the neighborhood more vibrant."

When he first came into office, Dufty said he was hesitant to throw his support behind the formation of a CBD. He said, "I didn't want people to think the city shouldn't do its job. I have worked hard to get the city to put maximum attention on the Castro. There is more we need."

Peter Cohen, with the Duboce Triangle Neighborhood Association, said he is supportive of the CBD concept, especially if it includes the Church Street corridor, where he said residents have complained about quality of life issues for years. But he said he does have some reservations.

"In general I think these business improvement districts have a lot of potential. It is fine if you have business owners who want to tax themselves," said Cohen. "I guess my hesitations about them in general is they have had a mixed reputation. They have definitely been used as a mechanism to push the homeless out of an area."

Cohen said he would not want to see private security guards hired by the CBD simply push the homeless away into other neighborhoods.

"This is not Union Square. It is a neighborhood that has a lot of things, some good, some not so good, about it," he said.

Those involved in the steering committee said there is no intention to use the CBD to drive away

the homeless. Instead, they hope the district will be able to focus on cleaning up and beautifying the area.

"I have friends come in from D.C. or LA and they are shocked at how rundown it looks," Eric Mann, a member of Plan C, said of the Castro. "The bottom line is if you come to the Castro do you feel it is a nice place to walk around? If you are stepping in poop it isn't."

Mann, who has attended some meetings on the CBD, said those who work and live in the Castro should support any effort to improve the neighborhood.

"In my eyes I think anytime you clean the streets and beautify the streets of any area you make it a more attractive area and make it a nicer place to live and work," he said. "The Castro is a world class destination for a lot of people. It should look like a world class destination when you get there."

For the CBD to be established, only a majority vote is needed from those property owners in the district. According to a preliminary study, the largest property owners in the Castro area include the city; Safeway; the federal government, which owns the mint; the Archdiocese of San Francisco; and the Bank of California.

Organizers of the CBD effort said they will not have results of the first survey until this fall and will reconvene a meeting at that time to discuss what the next steps will be in the process. Once established, those in the CBD would then vote on how much to assess themselves to pay for the district.

"I think, hope, the process will be completed by next spring," said Stram. ▼

Stats

by Jim Provenzano

This week, sports fans the world over will be watching the events in Athens. But before getting into all the controversies at the home of the first Olympic Games, several Bay Area athletes here in the home of the Gay Games deserve their own laurel wreaths.

A Cup full

The International Gay & Lesbian Football Association's World Cup filled Golden Gate Park's Polo Fields for five days last week, making for some of the most exciting local soccer playing in years.

With fields marked by small rainbow flags at each corner, sometimes up to four matches took place simultaneously.

Starting off with convivial spirits and warm sunny mornings and afternoons, by the last day of competition, the sky turned gray and chilly as clouds of fog raced over the playing field.

The final in the men's Division 1 had the Florida Storm facing off against the host team, the San Francisco Spikes, with Gil Chavez scoring first, followed by a Storm player. By the end of the second

half, with the score tied 2-2 (a second goal by the Spikes, amazing kicker John Kiladis), the tension (and perhaps the weather) kept fans on the sidelines shivering with anticipation.

Despite strong defense by Spikes players Adel Berrachdi, Bob Hartnagel, and others, and some swift turnovers by Ryo Asao and Ed Center, Florida scored twice more in overtime, giving the Storm its first championship victory at 4-2.

In one of the roughest of matches, each team got an average of five yellow and red cards from referees. The Spikes' Karl Myrvold suffered a cut eyebrow from a Storm player's foul, and later had to get stitches.

What made this event so unique was the contrast of hard-hitting competition on the field, and festive celebration from the sidelines, with eliminated players cheering, some in drag and feather boas.

In other matches, the men's Division 1 bronze medal game saw D.C./Philly United defeated by Team Americas 4-1. In the men's Division 2 matches, San Deattle (a

mix of San Diego and Seattle players) defeated Vancouver 4-1. The men's Division 2 bronze match ended with New York defeating the Tokyo Samurai 3-0.

The women's final ended with two local teams vying for the championship, with the Spikes defeating Wilde Oscars 3-0. The women's bronze match ended with the Noreasters defeating Seattle 3-1 in overtime.

Special parties included events at the Metro bar, the Lexington Club, and a very festive party last Thursday at Café DuNord, where over a dozen male soccer players and various hunks competed in a sexy

wet underwear contest hosted by a gaggle of Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. The enormously handsome Florida Storm player James won the most audience beads, although local favorite Allesandro was a cute runner-up.

At Saturday's awards party at Mezzanine nightclub, the "Golden Boot" was given to the top scorer in each division for the week. The Division 1 men's award went to a member of the Florida Storm. The Division 2 winner was a tie between Eric Eiben from San Deattle and Anthony Gil from the N.Y. Ramblers.

Carlo Togni from the SF Spikes was inducted into the IGLFA Hall of Fame for his many years of contribution to the Spikes and the IGLFA overall. Togni was one of the original founding members of the SF Spikes Soccer Club in the late 1980s, and also played on the SF Classics men's team in the tournament (that made it all the way to the Division 1 quarterfinals). "We're very proud of him and honored that he's still an active member of our club today," said Spikes rep Barry Skown.

Congratulations to all teams, particularly our local soccer players, and the many volunteers who helped out. The Spikes, women's Spikes, and Wilde Oscars resume league practices and matches soon. Get more info at www.sfsf-spikes.org and www.sf2004.org.

Track stars

Bay Area gay track athletes did exceptionally well at last month's International FrontRunner Games, held in Seattle, July 21 through 25.

The always-outstanding Curtis Moore (who won 13 medals at Sydney's Gay Games) took first place in all his events, including the 100-meter, long jump, triple jump, and set a record in the 400-meter race, with a time of 51.31 seconds.

Bob Callori took first place in his age group's 100-meter, and 200-meter races, as well as in shot put, discus, javelin, and second in hammer in his group.

Allen Eggman won first place in four events; shot put, discus, high jump and long jump. Chris Goodwin took first place in the 100-meter and 200-meter sprints, and second in the 400-meter.

Drew Monahan won first place in the 110-meter high hurdles, and second place in the long jump. Gwynne Villegas took second in the 110- and 400-meter hurdle race. The relay team of Dibley, Monahan, Moore, and Villegas took first place in the 4x100.

Congratulations to these members of the San Francisco Track and Field Club.

For info about the SF Track and Field Club, visit <http://www.support-sf.com/>. For info about the International FrontRunner Games, visit <http://www.frontrunner.org/>

Euro-rowing, Euro-wrestling...

More than 5,000 people participated in the gay and lesbian EuroGames July 29 to August 1 in Munich, Germany. With more than 200 competitive events in 26 sports, it was the largest GLBT sports event since Sydney's Gay Games. Wheelchair dancing was one of the more unusual events, along with more traditional competitions, including swimming, wrestling, soccer, fencing, and rowing.

The venue for the games was the 1972 Summer Olympics site. Participants from Bulgaria, Hungary, and Turkey joined athletes from 17 countries, mostly in Western Europe. Over 20,000 spectators attended the games, which are staged by the European Gay and Lesbian Sport Federation. Germany's minister of justice, Brigitte Zypries, spoke at the opening ceremonies.

Ratting out

Terrell Owens shot off his mouth in the September issue of *Playboy*, which hits newsstands this week. You know I just read it for the articles.

A former San Francisco 49er now playing for the Philadelphia Eagles as its newest receiver, Owens attempted to out a former teammate.

The *Playboy* question: Jeff Garcia "has denied media rumors he's gay. What do you think?"

Owens's reply: "Like my boy tells me: If it looks like a rat and smells like a rat, by golly, it is a rat."

Who Owens's "boy" is was not clear. Owens is single and does not have any children, according to the Eagles media guide.

The *Playboy* interviewer also asked Owens how he would respond to a gay NFL player coming out.

"I probably wouldn't say anything right off the bat," Owens said. "I'd just see what everyone else has to say. I'd probably keep my distance and, hopefully, he would keep his. If it was a guy who was helping us win ball games, hey, I'd have no problem with it. He can do what he wants to do outside of my everyday life."

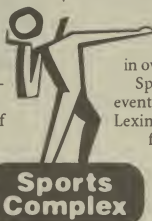
Owens hastily appeared at a news conference Tuesday August 10 not to exactly apologize, but cover his tracks, by saying, "I don't know if Jeff is gay, er, Jeff is gay. It was reported that he was seen with a girlfriend, and when I was in San Francisco I saw him with a woman that maybe was his girlfriend."

KRON sports anchor Gary Radnich put it succinctly; "This is what happens when you talk too much."

Garcia, now the quarterback for the Cleveland Browns, said the comments are untrue. ▼



The Spikes' John Kiladis at the IGLFA men's final.



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Upcoming events

Dress you up in my love

The San Francisco FrontRunners is hosting its annual Little Black Dress Run on Saturday, August 14 at 9 a.m. at the Stow Lake Boathouse area at Golden Gate Park.

It's the fifth annual edition of this 5K running event, which started in 2000. Inspired by the San Diego Hash House Harriers and their Red Dress Run, SF FrontRunners Anne Ludwig and Terry Hill (of Baylands Front Runners) tastefully changed the Bay Area version to black.

Valuable prizes will be awarded for Best Male Little Black Dress and Best Female Little Black Dress. Various accessory prizes will be awarded as well. There's no charge for participating, but any donations will go to the GLBT Historical Society. A reception will be held for San Francisco FrontRunners at the GLBT Historical Society and Museum on Wednesday, August 18 at 6:30 p.m. Don't miss this campy fashionably fun event! Info at www.sffrontrunners.org

Wave babes

The NorCal Women's Surf Club presents its Surf Fest 2004 Launch Party, Saturday, August 14 from 3 to 8 p.m. at El Rio, 3158 Mission Street at Cesar Chavez. \$8-\$20. Info: (415) 282-3325. 21 and over barbecue, special guest emcee Mary Osborne (winner of MTV's *Surf Girls*), DJ Loca Lavado and surf bands the Aquamarines, The Neptunes and Pollo Del Mar. Preview the film *A Girl's Surf Addiction*. Proceeds benefit the second annual NorCal Women's Surf Fest, September 11 at Linda Mar Beach, Pacifica. For info, visit www.ncwsc.com ▼

Send info about your GLBT sports events to:
jimproven@yahoo.com

CLASSIFIEDS

New digs for SF Pride



Jane Philomen Ciland

From left, Pride board President Joey Cain, treasurer Kirsten Boyd, and LGBT Community Center Executive Director Thom Lynch share a laugh at a community open house held Tuesday, August 10 at Pride's new offices in the center. The Pride Committee took over 1,006 square feet in the Victorian part of the building and moved in at the beginning of the month.

Lesbian Notions

◀ page 8

tempt to write discrimination against one group of citizens – lesbians and gay men – into the U.S. Constitution.

2. In the same month, the Marriage Protection Act passed the U.S. House of Representatives. This act attempts to strip the federal courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court, of the power to hear "federal question" cases, specifically those related to the antigay Defense of Marriage Act. Like the FMA, the MPA is without precedent – and may also be unconstitutional, since it seeks to undermine our government's tripartite (executive, legislative, judicial) balance of power.

3. Also in July, the Senate Judiciary Committee voted to send to the floor for a vote a constitutional amendment prohibiting desecration of the flag. No matter how offensive any of us may find flag burning, especially post-9/11, it is an expression of free speech – and the freedom to disagree with the government is the stated core of the Declaration of Independence.

4. Republicans have been zealously guarding the USA Patriot Act, although some provisions infringe on citizens' civil liberties. A

recent attempt by liberals and moderates in Congress to get rid of the act's egregious Section 215 – which allows the FBI to gather information about Americans' library loans, bookstore purchases, and video/DVD rentals – failed when moderate Republicans caved in, toed the party line, and voted to retain the provision. In contrast, almost 300 municipalities around the country have passed resolutions against the Patriot Act because they see it as a threat to Americans' civil liberties.

Given these examples, Heinz Kerry – an immigrant who lived under dictatorship and doesn't take being American for granted – was correct to cite the "un-American" – ness of some Republican measures. Again and again, the extreme policies of the radical right threaten the framework of liberty and freedom upon which this country was founded and which all Americans, gay and straight, treasure. ▼

Paula Martinac is a Lambda Literary Award-winning author of eight books and editor in chief of Q Syndicate. She can be reached care of this publication or at LesbianNotions@qsyndicate.com.

Oakland events

◀ page 19

pin' in Pride Dyke March. The event meets in Lakeside Park between Grand Avenue and Lakeshore Drive off MacArthur and participants march to the "Sistahs Village" in nearby Snow Park for a daylong free festival. Drums are available for loan with a valid identification. The festival event will feature vendors that reflect the community, a Lyon-Martin health pavilion, an elders' space, a "Tree of

Joy" altar, and a full stage of live entertainment. Call (510) 551-8330 or visit www.sistahstepin.org for more information.

Oakland Pride organizers say that the two weeks of events are a chance to showcase the diversity and strength of one of the most concentrated LGBT populations in the nation.

"I'm excited about the whole experience," said Oakland Dyke March founder Peggy Moore. "I'm so glad that more people in Oakland are recognizing the gay community." ▼

Developer

◀ page 12

center. We don't want to take away from it," said David Johnson, with Christiani Johnson Architects.

Thom Lynch, the center's executive director, said he attended the meeting to listen to the proposal. Though he did suggest a daycare facility would be a welcome addition to the area and was concerned

that any new retail does not compete with the center's new cafe.

"The center has a specific presence and audience. I would want to see how that might marry with the project," said Lynch.

Three Dollar Bill Cafe operator Peter Howells said he and his partner would welcome having potential customers living next door.

"We are really excited about the prospects of improvements to that space," he said. ▼

BAY AREA REPORTER
CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICES

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

PORT OF SAN FRANCISCO

The Port is accepting applications for Deputy Director, Maintenance, a position that reports directly to the Executive Port Director. Position responsibilities include: developing, directing & managing maintenance services for all Port facilities. Ten years progressively responsible experience planning/coordinating policies, procedures and operational programs for a maintenance facility preferably in a port or other public entity and BA desirable. Equivalent experience acceptable. Resumes not accepted without application. Salary: \$96,148-\$128,804. For information/application visit www.sport.com or call 415-274-0422. EOE

The following positions are posted for the Board of Supervisors/Clerk of the Board:

1367 Special Assistant VIII - Legislative Analyst

Salary Range: \$1,980-\$2,407 Biweekly; \$51,480-\$62,582 Annual*

*The Legislative Analyst shall receive a seven percent (7%) premium

Appointment Type: Permanent Exempt

Filing Deadline: September 3, 2004

1371 Special Assistant XII - Senior Legislative Analyst

Salary Range: \$2,666-\$3,241 Biweekly; \$69,316-\$84,266 Annual*

*The Senior Legislative Analyst shall receive a seven percent (7%) premium

Appointment Type: Permanent Exempt

Filing Deadline: September 3, 2004

1454 Executive Secretary III

Salary Range: \$2,140-\$2,602 Biweekly; \$55,640-\$67,652 Annual

Appointment Type: Permanent Exempt

Filing Deadline: September 3, 2004

Information Phone: (415) 554-7707 between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING INSPECTION

COME PARTICIPATE IN THE Department of Building Inspection's Brown Bag Lunch Talks at 1660 Mission Street, Room 2001 (second floor), Thursdays, Noon to 1:30 P.M.

The Department welcomes you to attend a series of informal, general information talks presented at no charge to the public and City staff. Bring your lunch; coffee and other drinks will be provided.

August 19, 2004 Department of Building Inspection Emergency Plans

Department of Building Inspection staff

NOTE: Persons unable to attend are invited to mail their comments or questions, to request materials hand out, or to call and speak with department staff. Please contact Laurence Kornfield, Chief Building Inspector, Technical Services Division at (415) 558-6205 for further information.

THE SAN FRANCISCO CITY CLINIC

The San Francisco City Clinic is the City's only municipal STD Clinic. City Clinic provides free or low cost, confidential, comprehensive STD diagnostic and treatment services to anyone 12 years of age or older. The Clinic is located at 356 7th Street, between Folsom and Harrison Streets and is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; Tuesday from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m.; and Thursday from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. The telephone number is (415) 487-5500.

STD services are provided for all sexually transmitted diseases, including chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis, crabs, scabies, herpes, genital warts, bacterial vaginosis, trichomoniasis, hepatitis, urethritis, cervicitis, proctitis, pelvic inflammatory disease, genital ulcer disease, epididymitis and urinary tract infections. Specialized women's services, including birth control, pap smears, colposcopy and the morning after pill are also available. City Clinic clients may also receive hepatitis A&B vaccination, HIV post-exposure prevention and HIV counseling, testing, referral and partner notification services. Medical and case management services are also provided on a limited basis for underserved patients who have no other source of care.

All sexually active persons should be tested for STDs regularly. If you think you may have been exposed to an STD, you need to be promptly tested and treated to prevent you from developing the disease.

STATEMENT FILE A-0276973-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Grayson Sinclair Bourne Design, 2327 20th Ave., San Francisco, Ca. 94116. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Grayson S. Bourne. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 7/08/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06-22-04.

JULY 22, 29 AUG. 5, 12 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0277450-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Wright Way Property Management, 558 Filbert Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94133. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Greg Wright. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 07/08/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/08/04.

JULY 22, 29 AUG. 5, 12 2004

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 04-541450

In the matter of the application of Chiselli Anne Bethea Borja for change of name. The application of Chiselli Anne Bethea Borja for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Chiselli Anne Bethea Borja has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Josell B. Mallari. Now therefore, It is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the ninth day of September at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

JULY 22, 29 AUG. 5, 12 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0277633-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Kiki Yo, 605 B Cheney Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94131. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Kirkian C. Taber. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 07/15/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/15/04.

JULY 22, 29 AUG. 5, 12 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0277614-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Mark Tetrault Design, 3851 26th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94131. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Mark Tetrault. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 07/02/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/15/04.

JULY 22, 29 AUG. 5, 12 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0277683-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Mobile Health Consultants, 1058 Haight Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by co-partners, signed Jay J. Kerzner. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 07/16/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/16/04.

JULY 22, 29 AUG. 5, 12 2004

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 04-541465

In the matter of the application of David Adam Lange for change of name. The application of David Adam Lange for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that David Adam Lange has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to David Adam Galang. Now therefore, It is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the sixteenth day of September at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

JULY 29 AUG. 5, 12, 19 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0277758-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Songs For All Seasons, 2490 33rd Ave., San Francisco, Ca. 94116. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Hilda C. Schedler. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 07/20/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/20/04.

JULY 29 AUG. 5, 12, 19 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0278121-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Cosmopolitan Apts. Consultants, 65 Midcrest Way, San Francisco, Ca. 94127. This business is conducted by a general partnership, signed Shawn Warren Frohmuth. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 8-01-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8-02-04.

AUG. 5, 12, 19, 26 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0277507-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: 2 Boys Holding Hands, 2261 Market St., #506, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual, signed James Chan. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 7-09-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 7-09-04.

AUG. 5, 12, 19, 26 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0277742-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Best of San Francisco Publishing & Printing, 41 Sutter St., #1761, San Francisco, Ca. 94104. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Michelle Maria Rockford-Boley. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 11-09-98. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 7-20-04.

AUG. 5, 12, 19, 26 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0278031-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Polk & Clay Liquor, 1700 Polk St., San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by co-partners, signed Han S. Wong. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 7-29-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 7-29-04.

AUG. 5, 12, 19, 26 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0278014-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Metropolitan Gardens, 1100 26th St., C-14, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by an individual, signed James A. Maltzberger. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1-04-86. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 7-29-04.

AUG. 5, 12, 19, 26 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0277933-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Mi Lindo Yucatan #2, 4042 24th St., San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Jorge Góngora. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 7-26-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 7-26-04.

AUG. 5, 12, 19, 26 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0277741-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Best of San Francisco Guide/Best of San Francisco, 41 Sutter St., #1761, San Francisco, Ca. 94104. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Michelle Maria Rockford-Boley. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 7-08-1993. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 7-26-04.

AUG. 5, 12, 19, 26 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0277935-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Mi Lindo Yucatan #1, 401 Valencia St., San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Benny Huerta. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 7-26-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 7-26-04.

AUG. 5, 12, 19, 26 2004

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO. A-0274983-00

The following person(s) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Mi Linda Yucatan Located at: 401 Valencia St. San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business was conducted by an individual signed Benny Huerta. The fictitious name referred to above was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on: 04-01-04.

AUG. 5, 12, 19, 26 2004

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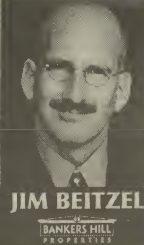
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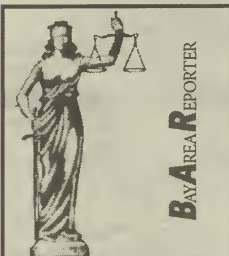
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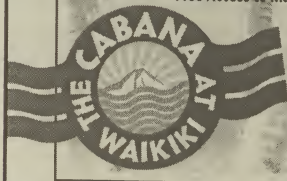
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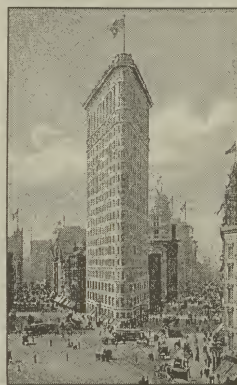
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City and County of San Francisco
Department of Human Services
Request for Qualifications #287
Dear Potential Applicant:

The San Francisco Department of Human Services (SFDHS) announces its intent to seek proposals from non-profit development organizations interested in entering into a long-term ground lease for the purpose of substantially renovating, maintaining and operating an existing building located at 850 Broderick Street in San Francisco as well as providing support services to the tenants of the Building, who will be formerly homeless senior citizens. The purpose of this RFP is to select a qualified non-profit organization that will: (1) secure affordable housing development funding including Multi-Family Housing Program (MHP) funding from the California Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) or other sources as needed to renovate 850 Broderick suitable for a supportive housing project; (2) renovate the building; (3) maintain, manage and operate the building for the full term of the lease; and (4) provide appropriate supportive services needed by the residents.

Please note that this RFP supersedes Solicitation of Interest #270 and Requests for Qualifications #266 that were issued earlier this year.

An RFP packet may be picked up at SFDHS, Office of Contract Management, 1650 Mission Street, Suite 300, starting August 9, 2004. Office hours are from 8:30 AM to 5 PM. RFP packets and subsequent updates will also be available on the City's website. Go to [HTTP://SFSUNSET.CA.GOV/PROCUREMENT](http://sfsunset.ca.gov/procurement) and click on the Consultants and Professional Services link. The Respondents' Conference will be held on August 20, 2004 at 9:30am at 850 Broderick St, SF, CA. For further information, call Kimberly Ferguson at 415 557-5585. Due date for responses is September 10, 2004 at 4:00 PM. No exceptions.

08/12/04 • CNS-7000788 • BAY AREA REPORTER

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: A-0268612-00

The following person(s) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Designer Brand Outlet. Located at: 2141 Mission St. #C San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business was conducted by an individual signed Freshia Rahimi. The fictitious name referred to above was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on: 07-23-03.

AUG. 5, 12, 19, 26 SEPT. 2, 2004

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: A-0245982-00

The following person(s) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Empire Health Club. Located at: 428 O'Farrell St., San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business was conducted by an individual signed Masaru Mochida. The fictitious name referred to above was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on: 1-12-01.

AUG. 12, 19, 26 SEPT. 2, 2004

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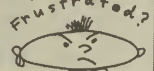
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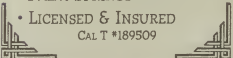
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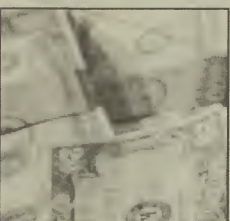
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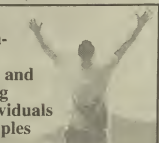
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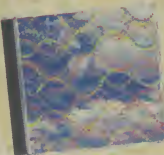


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Getting an opera fix in midsummer
Merola Opera Program's 'Don Pasquale,'
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New photobooks of the
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

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Gay couple meets crossdressing child



'Having introduced a so-called sissy into the story, the last thing I wanted was for him to become a clown.'

Judith Parker

Author Michael Downing brings 'Breakfast with Scot' to the stage

by Richard Dodds

Who's the kid? Where's the kid? How's the kid? These are questions that Michael Downing is regularly asked. His answer: There is no kid.

But in his gently comic novel *Breakfast with Scot*, Downing created a world so closely observed that it's hard to believe the title character is entirely a work of fiction. "He came from nowhere in my experience," Downing said of the 11-year-old boy with an unsettling passion for lady's accessories.

The story of Scot and the perplexed gay couple upon whom he is suddenly thrust is now on stage in an adaptation created by Downing at the request of New Conservatory Theatre Center. This is Downing's second effort at playwriting, but the earlier play was an original creation, and the author found adaptation a far more challenging exercise.

"I would say I wrote 12 to 15 remarkably different drafts," Downing said before sitting in on a rehearsal at New Conservatory. "The drafts sometimes read to me like a really terrible sitcom, as if I were generating new jokes from the same situation. I was surprised by my own incompetence."

But Downing, 46, persisted in exploring ways to translate the spirit of his book to the stage, and with the help of NCTC Artistic Director Ed Decker and playwright Terrence McNally, Downing came up with an adaptation that was announced for the previous season, but then postponed.

"I didn't love it as much as the novel, which may be inevitable, but the gap between the novel and the play seemed larger

that it had to be. And Ed agreed. We both thought it could be better. I don't even see the novel in the play anymore."

From "a cast of thousands" in the first draft, the finished play preserves just six of the novel's characters. They include Sam and Ed, longtime partners living contentedly near Boston, who aren't sure how to react when they become guardians of a budding queen. Just how far do their progressive views take them when Scot wants to wear makeup and pantyhose to school?

Beyond normal

In the novel, the inevitable conflicts are handled with surprisingly low-key humor. "Having introduced a so-called sissy into the story," Downing said, "the last thing I wanted was for him to become a clown. What's subversive about Scot is not his outlandishness, but his incapacity to read norms, and the way he forces other people to articulate norms that they are very uncomfortable articulating. He constantly upends the present situation."

The novel *Breakfast with Scot*, published in 1999, has also been optioned for a movie, but Downing has no interest in being the one to write the screenplay.

"I had lunch with someone with an option on *Breakfast with Scot*, and she said, 'Something more has to happen, like somebody could die.' And I said, 'Yeah, somebody could die of AIDS,' and she said quite seriously, 'Yes, that would be great.' Like enough gay men haven't died already."

Most of Downing's novels, including the highly successful *Perfect Agreement*, have some gay content. "*Breakfast with Scot* is the

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Not-so-gay marriages

Fun and games from Shakespeare Santa Cruz

by Erin Blackwell

Santa Cruz, a mere 90 minutes down idyllic Highway 1, offers beach-lovers the chance to see great theater. That's right. Eat a deep-fried twinkie in your flip-flops on the boardwalk to the tune of a 1911 carousel, then drive up into the tree-studded hills of the UC campus and discover the cultural gem that is Shakespeare Santa Cruz.

Artistic director Paul Whitworth is back after a two-year hiatus during which he directed the world premiere of Edna O'Brien's *Triptych*, a palpable hit at the Magic. A highly skilled actor, the bearded Brit plays a sloppy George to Kate Skinner's toned Martha in Edward Albee's merciless vivisection of marital fidelity, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*

Marriage-as-war is the theme of SSC's three-show summer repertory season. To complement

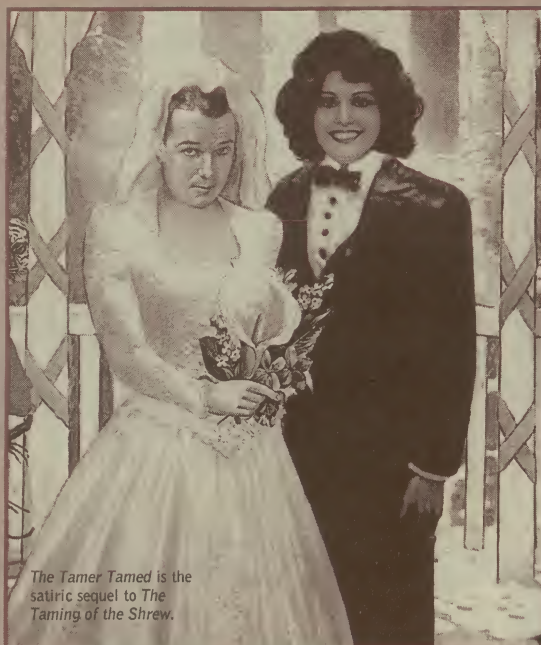
Taming of the Shrew (1592), Whitworth has chosen its satiric sequel, *The Tamer Tamed* (1611), by Shakespeare's sometime collaborator John Fletcher. In the original, Petruchio tames Kate by variously denying her food or shelter or clothing; in the spin-off, second wife Maria tames Petruchio by denying him her bed.

As directed by wild man Danny Scheie, *The Tamer Tamed* replays the trip down. A patchwork of humiliations visited upon the renowned wife-tamer, the play is not unlike *Merry Wives of Windsor*, which features a similar series of tricks played on Falstaff. Flimsy stuff, inviting a field day of comic invention from such as can. Scheie is a trickster, tease, scamp, scalawag, whimwham — and quite queer.

When was the last time you saw a plastic Port-o-San outhouse centerstage? You can bet that wasn't in Fletcher's script. People go in and out throughout, including the young, dumb gay boy and the priest. What's the point? Scheie builds and maintains a comic universe capable of supporting and augmenting the text. His nonstop use of pop signifiers (watch for the case of Tab) is a pleasure in itself.

The play opens with a somewhat laborious introduction of characters and the fact of Petruchio's wedding to Maria. Scheie punctuates the

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The Tamer Tamed is the satiric sequel to *The Taming of the Shrew*.

Illustration courtesy of Shakespeare Santa Cruz

SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS

Queer and proud, north of the border

We visit Gay Pride celebrations in Vancouver, British Columbia

by Roberto Friedman

We hear the call of the wild: When you arrive in the **Vancouver, BC** International Airport from the States, and proceed on your way to customs, you pass a simulated babbling brook in a natural diorama replete with recorded bird calls and a waterfall. It's so fresh, so Canadian, so adorable.

Out There was in Vancouver for their end-of-July Gay Pride week, on a gay press trip along with masthead names from the *Blades*, *Out*, gay others. Gay marriage is legally sanctioned, with all the trimmings, in three Canadian provinces and one territory: **British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec** and, wait for it, the **Yukon** territory! Forgive us while we stereotype, but who's up there in the frozen tundra but a bunch of fur-traders, Eskimos, and hairy, oil-riggin' men? Now, if this collection of brawny folk can see their way clear to granting full civil rights for their fellow citizens without the big Canadian sky falling down, maybe someday over the rainbow, justice and equality can visit our backward lands? Moron, thy name is **Missouri**.

The luxe **Opus** hotel in Vancouver's chic Yaletown warehouse district put us up royally. We enjoyed our accommodations immensely, though it seemed intentionally designed to encourage our worst exhibitionist tendencies. The shower and bath, both behind glass, were clearly visible to the room, itself clearly visible from the street. In some rooms, the bathrooms have streetside windows, so you can shower 'n' shave together with a downtown audience.

The thrills go on. In the men's lav, closed-circuit TV screens looming over each urinal let you monitor your date in the hotel

bar, make sure he/she isn't double-dipping his/her wick. The men's/women's loos are separated by a tasteful pane of glass, so guys/gals can compare who spends the most time primping at the wash-basin, or shoveling erm, talcum powder. Our bet's with the **xy's**.

Charming Opus general manager **David Corell** gave us cocktails and a personal tour through some of the Opus' greatest rooms, including the fab penthouse suite, with the four-poster bed surrounded by the wrap-around glass balcony, which recently housed former *Fly Girl* **J. Lo** and former *Boy's Fly* **Justin Timberlake**, though not at the same time. We wonder if Justin or J. enjoyed the many ways they could play peek-a-boo with Yaletown.

Wild life

Out There partied like a rock star in Vancouver's gay **Davie** village at sports bar **Sugar Daddy's**, piano bar **Oasis Pub**, cruisy **Numbers Cabaret**, and trendy **Celebrities Nightclub**. Canadian conundrum: How does one tip a stripper who's peeled down to his skivvies using coins "Loonies" (\$1 Canadian) and "Toonies" (\$2)? Seems like pretty heavy metal to be toting around in a posing strap. One club manager told us he was considering issuing scrips at the bar which patrons could purchase, then stuff into go-go apparel in the traditional way; the stuffed would then present the coupons at night's end for their tips. Sounds like an extra layer of bureaucracy. We suppose next time we could bring our checkbook.

Enjoyed also elegant **Delilah's** in the West End, foodie delight **Raincity Grill** overlooking English Bay. Lest you think we did not cease in our louches ways, know also that we boated in Horseshoe Bay with the hunky guides of



Vancouver queens celebrate Pride.

Sewell's Sea Safari, and swam laps in an Olympic-sized public pool in Kitsilano.

Canadian artist **AA Bronson** has a show, *The Quick and the Dead*, at Belkin Art Gallery in UBC, until Aug. 22. Bronson is a founding member of **General Idea**, an art-group which embraced the gay aesthetic in the '80s, charting the AIDS crisis into the '90s; the exhibit is, at least in part, a memorial to General Idea artists **Felix Partz** and **Jorge Zontal**. Some pieces reference AIDS, like a dome covered with mirrors based on the structure of the HIV molecule. www.belkingallery.ubc.ca.

Ka-boom! Fireworks competition *A Celebration of Lights* sparkled up the Vancouver night sky; teams from China, Sweden and Spain fired off pyrotechnics from a barge in English Bay. Since the presentation nights were during Pride week, at first we naively thought they were somehow affiliated. Now we know, the love of bottle rockets crosses all sexual preferences. China, which invented the damn things, deserved to win for their fiery visuals.

Canadian bakin'

Although Vancouver has lots of traffic, even traffic jams, we never



Playwright Tony Kushner and actor/director John Cameron Mitchell in NYC

heard anyone lean on their horn, unlike the flock of 9th Street geese who honk by our offices. This led us to consider, is there even such a thing as an angry Canadian? This soon became a competition among our fellow pressies, "Spot the raging Canadian." One journalist thought she'd found him, an employee for Canadian Rail exploding at a customer for buying her transfer from a homeless person. But this supposedly angry man didn't seem to count. He was angry on behalf of Canadian society, whose rail system would go under if everyone bought black-market tickets. Does angry with a social conscience count? We don't think so.

Even in the international drag of the airport, Canadian security personnel were so friendly and chatty as they patted and wanded us. One even complimented our "man-bag" as she scrambled through it. Then, on our Air Canada flight home, it happened: We had our angry Canadian sighting. Not angry without good reason, for the man in the row in front of her, probably American, had stupidly placed his coffee on his seat while standing up to get something trivial from the overhead bin. The cup tipped over, sending hot java spilling onto his seat and cascading to the floor in front of her. Producing one certifiably angry Canuck! We'll have to send out tearsheets and collect our prize. www.tourismvancouver.com; www.gayvan.com

A few balls

Return to the land of bunny torture victims and mouth-to-mouth for hamsters. Not since gerbils and **Richard Gere** have rodents had such a moment in American media. To be fair, Canadian papers were full of a golfball-stealing squirrel under the headline, "Hey, that squirrel stole my ball!" Hey, that section editor went on holiday! Back to the land of the burning **Bush**.

Like **Whoopi Goldberg** and **Linda Ronstadt**, a longtime local comedy-event coordinator has run afoul of the Bush Censorship Squad. This lesbian-about-town has been producing charity events for years, and an SF hotel has been generous in ponying up free rooms for the acts. But her latest show is a comedy free-for-all against President Bush. Such partisan yuks don't sit well with

everyone, including the hotel in question.

When our plucky **Sapphic sister** went to the hotel this time, she was told there was no room at the inn. The top brass told her apologetically that their conservative East Coast owners have asked them not to participate in anything that may be construed as a political statement. But they asked her to keep them in mind for the next event.

Meanwhile, it's hot and schtick in the Big Apple, but the benefit reading of **Tony Kushner's** new play *Only We Who Guard the Mystery Shall Be Unhappy* at the American Airlines Theatre was aswim with famous names and bodies. We can safely say SF impresario **Marc Huestis**, who helped produce the anti-war fundraiser for MoveOn PAC, shall be happy.

The paparazzi were in full swing: there was **Sopranos** royalty **Edie Falco**! Not to mention (but we will) **Queer as Folk** hottie **Randy Harrison**, actor-genius **Phillip Seymour Hoffman**, *NY Times* section editor **John Rockwell**, and **Justin Bond** of **Kiki & Herb**, giving their farewell performance soon at Carnegie Hall.

Hedwig star **John Cameron Mitchell** wowed the crowd as **Laura Bush** to **Patricia Clarkson's** Angel, but Kushner was so inspired by the event, he ran home from rehearsal the night before and wrote a new scene, premiered for the event. JCM switched seats to play Kushner having a dialogue with Clarkson, who became Laura. There was also an added monologue for hostette **Kristen Johnston** of *Third Rock* fame, a long dream where **George W.** speaks to the UN, and in one mighty chorus, the international delegates tell him where to go.

Kushner, who received a standing O, was a vocal supporter of **John Kerry**, though Laura in the piece describes her husband's challenger as "the man with the long banana face."

Also spotted were *Paris is Burning* filmmaker **Jennie Livingston**, **Jim Lyon** (*Postcards from America*), **Craig Seligman** (*Sontag and Kael*) with partner **Silvana Nova**, and from SF, **F. Allen Sawyer**, **Jim Van Buskirk** and fresh-faced **Lulu**. Bond confessed that the press launch was held in a funeral home. ▼

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'Don Pasquale,' a Merola miracle

Donizetti opera shines at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts

by Stephanie von Buchau

In the past, one attended Merola Opera Program functions with the grim determination to have a good time and generously cut everybody some slack. There are so many famous Merola graduates — among them Sylvia McNair, Susan Graham, Thomas Hampson — that I don't even remember when they were Merolini. Mostly scruffy, unsophisticated young people, badly dressed and vocally immature, the Merolini often made complete operas a trial, leavened occasionally by a spot of star power.

Those days are gone, and let us give credit where it is due. Pamela Rosenberg (SFO general director) and Sheri Greenawald (SFO Opera Center director) have worked a miracle in the last two years. Last Friday's Merola presentation of Donizetti's *Don Pasquale* at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts needed no indulgence or apologies. It was as good a performance of that tart comic masterpiece as I've ever heard.

It's a rarish opera, despite its vocal blandishments, because it is fiendishly difficult to sing, nearly impossible to coordinate, and blessed (or cursed, depending on your viewpoint) with a tone that turns sweet or nasty on a dime. One shudders to imagine what the Teutonic sensibility we've become used to at the War Memor-

ial might do with this piece. Yet there was no self-aggrandizing nonsense in stage director Chuck Hudson's "concept." If it is true that a director's first mandate is to make his actors look good, Hudson wins the prize.

Yes, he moved the action from Rome to a big American city, with "Don" Pasquale as a vaguely demented Mañoso, sort of a cross between Willem Dafoe and Marlon Brando, but it didn't disturb text or music. Andrew Wilkowske proved an inspired physical comic as Pasquale — and a touchingly defeated man as he searched for his glasses after Norina (Rhoslyn Jones) has slapped him silly. His nimble baritone had gravitas at the bottom, an impressively open top and the rapid, tongue-twisting coloratura necessary for the hilarious (encored) patter duet with Doctor Malatesta (Alexander Tall).

Much of the success of *Don Pasquale* rests on the Norina. It's one of those killer coloratura parts that a soubrette can't quite bring off. Jones may have been a little too aggressive and American in Act I (and excessive ornamentation leads her to pitch problems), but she settled in nicely, singing expressively in Italian (the work was given with smart, funny supertitles) and topping the ensembles with the required "acuti." Her acting was strong enough to make Norina a menace, but charming enough to keep her sympathetic.



Rhoslyn Jones (Norina) and Andrew Wilkowske (Don Pasquale).

Jeremy Little's Ernesto was positive and passionate in a role that often turns wimpy and caponish. His tenor is capable of suavity, though his last act aria, "Com'e gentil," was muddled by the bizarre offstage accompaniment — it sounded like tin cans and a tissue-paper comb — and

by the hilarious onstage antics of Pasquale and Malatesta. Little is another singing-actor whose physical comedy (as he tried to hide behind Malatesta's cape or to hang himself) bordered on inspired.

Finally, Tall's aggressive characterization of the string-pulling

Malatesta dominated the proceedings, yet willingly ceded the spotlight to his colleagues. In fact, it was this collegial atmosphere that allowed everyone to play full out without fear of overbalancing the work. Credit Greenawald, Hudson and conductor Dean Williamson. I hated the overture. This squawky, out-of-tune band was obviously not our beloved SFO Orchestra (turns out they are contracted for Merola performances and are most likely under-rehearsed). Williamson seemed to push and pull the overture. Even during the performance proper, he goosed the ensembles, which are the glory of this piece. Yet his cast was able to keep up, with the result that the act-ending ensembles were beautifully balanced and fizzed deliciously.

Add clean, crisp settings by Robert J. Martin and witty costumes by Kathleen Lussier-West. Her garb for the chorus, which contained a number of early-movie references — including an Edith Head character and some splendidly upholstered "Swedish" maids in glam-net stockings — were drop-dead funny. Jones, who is a buxom looker, was dressed and coifed to reinforce her sophistication. Perhaps SFO's main-stage designers should study how an elegant, confident look helps elevate a singer's all-around performance. This *Don Pasquale* was definitely a Merola highwater mark. ▼

Rosenberg's 'Ring' revelations

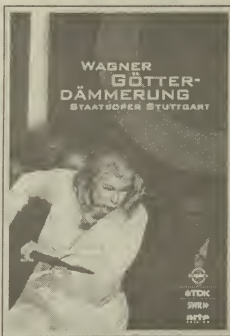
Staatsoper Stuttgart production out on DVD

by Stephanie von Buchau

At every press conference I've attended since Pamela Rosenberg took over direction of the San Francisco Opera, some forlorn voice has asked when we could expect a new production of Richard Wagner's tetralogy *Der Ring des Nibelungen*. Rosenberg produced the same answer each time. In her opinion, a *Ring* production takes 10 years to mount, and her initial contract at SFO was only for five years. Now we will never know. Rosenberg's "initial contract" is the only contract.

When it expires in July 2006, Rosenberg will go on to "other things." In the meantime, we can see what we might have missed when she declined to mount a *Ring* for SFO. EuroArts (TDK DVD) has released a four-box set of the *Ring* (operas available separately) first premiered in 1999 at the Staatsoper Stuttgart, when Rosenberg was still head of the German house. Though the project was instigated by her co-director, she signed off on it and reports that it was well received by press and public.

This Stuttgart *Ring* production — each of the four operas mounted by a different director and designer, the main roles cast with different singers — was filmed on-



stage in the beautiful old Staatsoper during a 2002-03 revival. I strongly recommend that all opera lovers, Wagnerians, and especially members of the SFO Board of Directors and the new search committee see this 15-hour set.

Rosenberg's Teutonic aesthetic ranges from silly bits (Brunnhilde and Siegfried fighting over a satin sheet during their love duet) and crude ones (Mime masturbating after Wanderer has scared him spitless) to emotionally empty moments such as a greasy, paunchy Wotan singing his farewell to a TV monitor, or the final cataclysm reduced to Wagner's stage directions scrolling down a massive screen.

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Back to the Felliniesque future

'La Dolce Vita,' return of a Roman candle to the Castro Theatre

by Tavo Amador

When Federico Fellini's *La Dolce Vita* ('60) opened in the United States, it became the most famous and commercially successful foreign language film the country had ever seen. Americans who had never been to Rome talked about "The Sweet Life" on the Via Veneto, and the name of one character, Paparazzo, an aggressive, intrusive, and exploitative photographer, became the name for a whole class of press, the *paparazzi*. But did anyone at the time know how prescient the movie would be? The restored film plays the Castro Theatre August 13-19.

Marcello Rubini (Marcello Mastroianni) is a second-tier gossip columnist, chronicling the activities of movie stars, society figures, and other members of the *glitterati*. He's also working on a novel, although he hasn't done much with it recently. The film chronicles his nights, dawns, and a few days as he pursues news items, meets and sometimes beds women, attends parties, joins discussions, and battles with his needy fiancée, Emma (Yvonne Furneaux). The episodic structure reveals the *ennui* plaguing each strata of society: aristocrats in their crumbling palazzos, artistic intellectuals in their swank homes, successful businessmen in their expensive houses, and the

poor.

Maddalena (Anouk Aimee, resembling Joan Crawford in *Humoresque* ('46) and anticipating Audrey Hepburn's look in '61's *Breakfast at Tiffany's*) is a bored, rich, society woman who has a fling with Marcello but, while claiming to love him, opts for living like "a whore." Sylvia (the astonishingly *zaftig* Anita Ekberg) is an American movie star with whom Marcello spends a frustrating, drunken night. At one point, she wades into the Trevi Fountain, a scene that became emblematic of the decade.

Marcello covers a story about two children who claim to have seen the Madonna, making them the latest media sensation. Their mother wants to make money from the publicity, and she and their grandfather happily, hypocritically emote for the cameras, as do the children. Weariness and cynicism hit Marcello. Only the enigmatic Steiner (Alain Cuny), a lauded writer, married to a lovely woman, with two beautiful children, seems to have found happiness. At his urging, Marcello leaves the city to resume work on his novel, but he's soon back in Rome. His father visits, and they go nightclubbing, pick up women, but cannot communicate.

Celeb blur

In *La Dolce Vita*, Fellini accurately depicted the blurring be-



Anita Ekberg is surprisingly *zaftig* as an American movie star in *Vita*.

tween notoriety and celebrity. Shortly before shooting began in '59, a widowed Elizabeth Taylor had embarked on the first of her marital scandals, when singer Eddie Fisher left wife Debbie Reynolds for her. Upon arriving in Rome to make *Cleopatra* (finally released in '63), they were pursued by the *paparazzi*. Unlike what happened a decade earlier to Ingrid Bergman, Taylor triumphed over her moralizing critics, emerging an even bigger star. While filming in Rome, she would engage in a greater scandal by dumping Fisher for the married Richard Burton, making them the

darlings of the *paparazzi* on the Via Veneto and elsewhere in the Eternal City. Again, the notoriety only increased her box-office clout.

The episode with the children and the Madonna anticipates Andy Warhol's prediction that everyone would one day have 15 minutes of fame. Fellini also seems to have sensed the dawn of the swinging '60s, with people confusing sensation for feelings, and detaching emotion from sex. "If it feels good, do it." He's sympathetic to this reaction, coming after the rigidly conformist, repressive '50s. But he knows it's not

enough. The people Marcello encounters, even Steiner, are terribly alienated. The ending suggests that Marcello doesn't recognize the opportunity for a satisfying life even when he sees it.

Several gay characters appear throughout. Although most are stereotypical, they don't seem any more superficial than their straight counterparts. Towards the end, one says to Marcello, "Someday the whole world will be homosexual," adding that it will be a "mess." The comment reflects the era's ignorance and rampant homophobia, but also predicts the current American right-wing hysteria over same-sex marriages, its fears of the so-called "homosexual agenda," and the explosion of positive gay and lesbian coverage in today's media.

The film begins with a helicopter carrying a statue of Christ onto St. Peter's Square, and ends with a grotesque fish washing up on the shore. The symbolism is Christian, but perhaps Fellini was suggesting a catholic (as opposed to Catholic) idealism that would accompany the hedonism of the next decades.

La Dolce Vita made international stars of Mastroianni, Aimee, and, briefly, Ekberg, as well as Fellini himself, earning him a '61 Best Director Oscar nomination. The film was also nominated for Best Art and Set Decoration, and won the Best Costume Design Award. ▼

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Thursday, August 19th

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Splash @ Waves Bar & Saloon
65 Post Street, San Jose
9:00 pm

Friday, August 20th

Rickey's Hyatt
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Jim Beam Welcome Pool Party
2:00-7:00 pm
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6:00-9:00 pm
New Contestants Welcome

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8:00 pm-1:00 am
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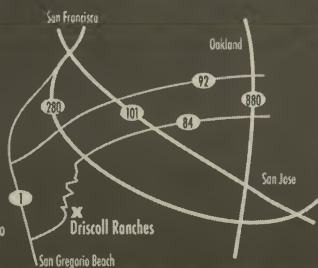
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Buried treasure

Pioneers in male physique: new photobooks in print

by John F. Karr

Two new photo collections celebrate the model whose career opened the door to male physique modeling, and a photographer who, some 50 years later, and strangely enough, increased the eroticism of modeling by obeying the law.

Tony Sansone's career began in the early 1920s, as the physical culture movement was blooming. Its chief entrepreneur was Charles Atlas, whose nascent mail-order enterprise would nudge aside the once-prevailing, old-world look of weightlifter Eugene Sandow for the sleek symmetry and harmonious refinement of Tony Sansone.

The young, Brooklyn-born bodybuilder emerged from the obscurity and poverty of an Italian immigrant family to achieve honors and public recognition solely on account of his classic beauty. The rare confluence of elegant physique, handsome face, and a nearly spiritual inner poise made him a role model for decades. Sculptors used him as a model for the heroic statuary that was then the style, prominent photographers made studies, and numerous portrait books were issued. *American Adonis* (Universe Publishing, \$45) collects over 120 of those photographs in a richly designed and printed book, along with a somewhat circuitously written but earnest biography by art historian John Massey.

Sansone was heterosexual. That's presumably why there's no mention of the period's gay life, or Sansone's gay fans, in Massey's memoir. But it was undoubtedly gay collectors who boosted sales of Sansone's photos; bodybuilding enthusiasts alone couldn't have accounted for such popularity. One ingenious passage of the book remarks upon gym owner Sigmund Klein's mentoring influence on Sansone. Klein's gym, the book recounts adroitly, "was a popular meeting place for theatrical talents, including Frederic March, Laurence Olivier, Montgomery Clift, Danny Kaye, and [director/choreographers] Charles Walters and Robert Alton." Among these men, perhaps only March was not known for hidden homosexuality.

Yet Sansone's appeal is universal. While his beauty was genetic, and his physique cultivated, Sansone's most unique quality is the serenity of his being as reflected in his poses. He seems to reside in a state of grace. Tony Sansone, called The First Male Physique Icon, fully deserves the lush retrospective collection of *American Adonis*.

Strap news

Mention the name Walter Kundzicz to posing-strap-era physique fans, and the reaction will probably be, "Huh?" But say Champion Studio, and the reaction will be strong, fond, and erotically charged. But Champion was Walter Kundzicz, the public name of the photographer whose work is properly glorified in *Champion* (Goliath Books, \$37.95). The volume begins with Kundzicz' spirited first-person memoir of biographical fact, erotic adventure, and technical how-to. He tells of being harassed, informed on, embezzled from, raided, arrested, and prosecuted by police and the IRS — the near-standard tale of the



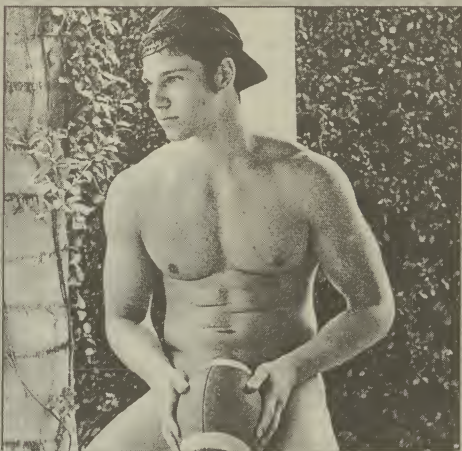
Champion Studio was the mother lode for photos of scantily clad athletes.

men who insisted on their right during a repressive era to photograph our dreams. Then, the treasure, and lots of it: *Champion* reproduces well over 300 full 5-by-7 photographs made during Kundzicz' heyday, the 1950s and '60s.

The prevailing law said genitals must be covered. So Champion became the undisputed master of high titillation. No one exploited a posing strap like Champion. Wisps of chiffon, wet fabric, and most chiefly, cunningly darted posing straps of mesh or spandex covered the illegality, while accentuating, seemingly enlarging, and definitely increasing the worth of the buried treasure. While the book includes frontal nudes, it's the peek-a-boo pics that engage

the imagination so effectively. The artistry of Champion's photographs hasn't been commented on, probably because of their overt sexuality and seemingly casual poses. The emphasis was on the genitals, and a studio setting was most often replaced by the random decor of an apartment, a fake locker room, or a shower stall. Other well-known photographers of the period, like Lon, offered more formal poses in composed environments, which subdued their inherently sexual content. But Champion's easy-going poses and unconcernedly placed props were part of his design. His models were not icons to be worshipped, but boys-next-door who good-naturedly prof-

Easy on the eyes



Although I've always been offended by the chosen title of a photographic collection that so obviously consisted of, and was aimed at, gay men, I can't dislike the gentle photographic art of Steven Underhill's *Straight Boys, Volume 2* (Bruno Gmunder; \$39.95). The title was chosen by the publisher; I'm sure even Mr. Underhill chafes. The models are, however, the photographer's choice, and they engage you with their likability. Underhill's low-key black-and-white technique is shown off in 70 large-size prints of healthy young men who are alternately playful or gently teasing, and continually refreshing. ▼

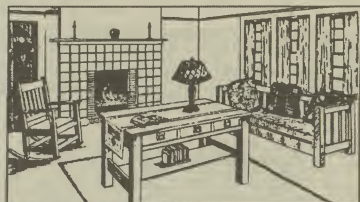
— John F. Karr

ferred a wholesome and most prominent sexuality.

Kundzicz' market dried up in the later '60s, and although he worked into the following decade, he couldn't compete with its deluge of hardcore porno films and glossy sex magazines. After treasuring the horny bounty of *Champion*, longtime fans and appreciative newcomers will undoubtedly be hoping for a second volume. ▼



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Grimes is at his exercise

by Tim Pfaff

It's hard to call an opera that has as solid a place in the repertoire as any other 20th-century work a "problem opera," but Benjamin Britten's *Peter Grimes* has been a problem-causing one, especially in the studio. All the other recordings, including the original Britten-Pears (recently released by Decca in a five-opera box set), have been overshadowed since the 1978 release, on LP and video, of Philips' document of the great Elisha Moshinsky Covent Garden production. It has sat uncontested among ideal opera recordings such as the Callas-de Sabata *Tosca* and the Beecham *Zauberflöte*.

Principal among the reasons were Jon Vickers' towering, visionary Grimes, which re-defined the role, and Sir Colin Davis' masterful conducting. Now Davis has gone and made a problem for collectors with a new recording of a live London Symphony Orchestra performance (LSO Live) that no one who loves the opera can afford to miss, but that has little to offer but even better Davis. Especially at three CDs, it's good it's at super-budget price.

Recorded in January, as a kind

of up-beat to the centenary celebration of London's greatest orchestra, it's a testament to the virtuosity and artistic commitment of both orchestra and chorus, caught here at their very considerable finest. They're like a 120-person Leonie Rysanek, who once told me, wild-eyed, "It's a director's job to hold me down."

Davis revels in the LSO's power, unafraid to unleash it at full strength ("We have the power"), but is as focused on the lavish amount of detail of all kinds he can coax from his players. The results are so staggering you can only wonder how great a *Grimes* this might have been if had planners been able to rustle up a cast that could do more than fill in the parts.

It would have been rude of Davis to purloin Ben Heppner, who sang his first onstage *Grimes* at Covent Garden last month. On the evidence of his LSO Live Berlioz *Les Troyens*, where Heppner also picked up a Vickers role (and dropped it), and on the pallid reviews I've seen of Heppner's first *Grimes*, it would also have been unwise.

Brawny man

Britten and Peter Pears, his lover for whom he wrote the title role and who sang it in the 1945 premiere, also at Covent Garden, famously hated Vickers' Grimes, which they considered too burly, too mad, and generally too grotesquely outsized. They are the only two people I know of who felt that way.

What made most music critics and opera fans uncomfortable was that Vickers was a virulent, outspoken homophobe who also sang a Peter Grimes that made you forget you were in the theater



or, some nights, on Earth. I, and everyone I knew, including the nation's top critics, most of them gay, were willing to mumble and shuffle their feet about the homophobia in exchange for the transport of a Vickers Grimes.

The half-dozen times I heard it count among my peak opera experiences. It also didn't bother me to hear from a friend, now gone, in the rehearsal department at the Met, that he once saw Vickers rage

backstage about the amount the IRS took from his fee, step on-stage mid-rant for a characteristically heart-stopping "Now the Great Bear and Pleiades," and resume his tantrum in the wings. This is one of the reasons they call it art, folks.

In the new recording, Glenn Winslade captures Grimes' sympathetic side but leaves empty boots in the place where a fisherman causes the deaths of boy apprentices. By some accounts, Janice Watson was so strong in the new Covent Garden production that she made the opera about Ellen Orford, but here, despite some touching singing, she seems buried in the score. As Balstrode, Anthony Michaels-Moore is his usual cipher. The delectable, smaller roles, of the quirky villagers, are in generally more capable larynxes.

The orchestra and chorus

compensate in spades. Their Covent Garden counterparts in the 1978 recording were hardly shabby, but in many ways as acute. But this recording penetrates deeper into the sound world, and Davis' interpretation has, against all odds, deepened. If you love *Peter Grimes*, this set is, for all its frustrations, a must. You know going in that the storm interlude, and the chorus' exclamation, "Home! Do you call that home?" in the first Act are going to make all your little hairs stand up.

The revelations come in the orchestra's more fine-grained playing and those magical moments when the choristers sing like 100-plus horrified, wrathful, vengeful, and in the end, forgetful (if hardly forgiving) individuals.

The miking gives you Davis crooning away, too. As with Vickers, you can forgive anything. ▼

Shakes S. Cruz

◀ arts cover

Elizabethan verbiage with a pomo sampling of corny wedding party songs ("Fever," "Hokey Pokey," the hustle, *et al.*), during which a stageful of guests breaks into the appropriate moves before freezing for the next patch of exposition. He gets more life onstage in the first five minutes than most directors do in their entire careers.

Dior prize

If you decide to see *Tamed*, you might want to catch the prequel. Director Tim Ocel bases his *Taming of the Shrew* on that great old Bette Davis flick *Now, Voyager* (1942), in which the old maid is tamed through therapy. Blaire Chandler, as Kate, appears in a demure floral print dress, orthopedic heels, middle part, and glasses, flourishing a cigarette. After much bedraggling, she emerges in a Dior-inspired gown, the soul of reformed resistance.

See both plays, and savor the actors' range. Chandler's brunette Kate is a febrile, fragile neurotic (shades of Judy Garland) who submits to Petruchio-as-healer with the shaky gratitude of an addict. Her blonde Maria is a nerveless, heartless femme fatale, a bit Ida Lupino, or do I mean Jane Greer in *Out of the Past* ('47)? That would make Robert Dean (Petruchio) a bit Robert Mitchum: the macho



Prequel: *The Taming of the Shrew*

hunk with a heart of gold. Plus, he speaks iambic pentameter crisply, and he's not afraid to be vulnerable.

No less awesome are the supporting players, 26 in each play. Patrick Kerr is shameless — an excellent quality in a comedian. As a rich but balding suitor for a young woman's hand, he mercifully mocks his character's folly by making himself as grotesque as possible. He finds ways to speak Shakespeare that startle with their clear, comic intention. Tommy Gomez, as an aide de camp, is similarly sharp and silly. Daniel Parker and Mike Ryan, for some reason, are funnier in *Tamed*.

Then there's *Virginia Woolf*? The first act is very funny; during the second and third, the laughter dwindles, and shock sets in. "George and Martha, sad, sad,



Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?

sad," says Martha well into a sleepless night of drinking and character assassination. Albee's verbally acute portrait of a heterosexual death match blurs the intersection of truth and illusion. There's the son they never had, whom they tell each other stories about; there's the boy who accidentally killed his parents who may or may not have grown up to be George. The impeccable Michael Donald Edwards (*Shopping and F***ing at Rhino*) has directed a solid cast of four in an exquisite slice of psychodramatic gamesmanship.

The *Tamer Tamed*, *Taming of the Shrew*, and *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* continue in repertory through August 29 at UC Santa Cruz Theater Arts Center. Info: (831) 459-2159, www.ucsc.edu. ▼

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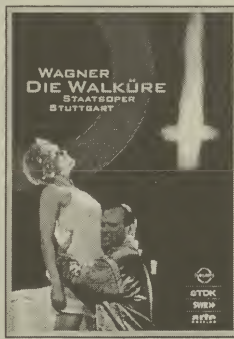
'Ring' cycle

◀ page 31

No fire, no flood, no destruction of Vahalla, just deconstruction of the hapless composer in the name of relevance.

On the other hand, there are any number of moments I found fascinating and entertaining, plus the most moving Siegfried death narration I've ever heard, though that may be due as much to the tenor as to the staging. Though there are four different directors, their ideas are very similar. Reading the *Siegfried* text, rather than listening to the music, Jossi Wieler and Sergio Morabito, SFO's dashing duo dramaturgs, have conceived Wagner's hero as a bumpkin clown. Peter Konwitschny echoes the interpretation in *Götterdämmerung*, plus makes the hero more than a little demented.

All four directors obviously



dislike the story of the *Ring*, finding it imperialist or Fascist or simply romantic hokum. As a result, the parts Wagnerians consider significant, spiritual or heroic are downplayed, made fun of or ignored. The parts that some of us find tedious fare much better. I

loved Christoph Nel's louche Valkyries; they are like gym rats, with exposed belly buttons and silly hair. Likewise, Konwitschny's Norms (bag ladies) and Rheinmaidens (blond-tressed sexpots) are so amusing they fill up what sometimes seems like dead air. I also loved Konwitschny's Bear as much as I hated the hobbyhorse-on-a-stick Grane. As for romance, Siegmund and Sieglinde are it — the Brunnhilde-Siegfried pairing is played for laughs.

The sets are hit-and-miss moderne. Bert Neumann's *Götterdämmerung* Rhine is dappled with sunlight, but he can do nothing with Siegfried's funeral music. In fact, transitions are funky repeatedly, with a black curtain covering lack of imagination. The costumes are a scandal. Dirty T-shirts, jogging suits, running shoes, baggy-slip dresses, shirts and ties, and yes, possums,

next page ►

Don't cry for her

Julie Budd at the Plush Room

by Richard Dodds

Julie Budd's voice has easily filled concert halls, Las Vegas showrooms, and outdoor arenas, so it's a bit of blast — literally and figuratively — to hear her in the intimate confines of the Empire Plush Room.

Budd is best remembered as the Brooklyn teenager from the '60s who could belt out songs like Streisand. Now 50, she is still at it, using her expansive voice to put the drama into an 80-minute show built mostly of classic popular songs.

It's a high-quality repertoire that brought her several standing ovations on opening night, even when the heart of a song took a backseat to pop-song posturing. Wearing a ball gown and thrusting up her arms, Budd at times resembled a cabaret Evita.

If there are hints of hauteur to her vocal stylings, her patter is genial and relaxed. That proved necessary on opening night, as members of an unusually voluble audience didn't hesitate to engage Budd in conversation, shout out comments, and visibly swoon as she went for the big notes.

You could see Budd working at scaling back her vocals for the small room, and that effort may have contributed to uneven fin-



Budd has been working on her act and taking it on the road since the '60s.

ishes on the bigger songs. But there's no doubt you get your money's worth from Budd, a singer who has been polishing her act since was 12. ▼

Julie Budd will be at the Empire Plush Room through Aug. 15. Tickets are \$30 and \$35. Call 885-2800 or go to empireplushroom.com.

Downing

◀ arts cover

book that has had the most meaning to people in the gay community," he said. "But 'gay novel' is a phrase that one stumbles over."

His next book, coming out in the spring, is, of all things, a history of Daylight Savings Time. "It turns out to be a hilarious story," he said. Downing also wrote *Shoes Outside the Door*, an examination of the San Francisco Zen Center and the scandals that almost destroyed it.

The future author grew up the youngest of nine children in the Berkshires area of Massachusetts. "My father died when I was three. His death really changed our socio-economic status pretty dramatically."

Even so, his childhood was "a remarkably benign experience." This included realizing he was gay by age 11, a realization that didn't particularly throw him off the standard-issue trajectory of his



The boy Scot 'came from nowhere.'

childhood. "I don't think I was original enough to be a sissy," Downing said.

He went to Harvard on a scholarship, and he continues to live in Cambridge near Boston, where his partner, Peter, is the chief financial officer of the venerable Isabella Stewart Gardner

Museum.

"There are characters in my books who are often close to being dangerously idealized," Downing said, "and that is Peter's presence in my life." Downing and his partner are at least partly the models for Ed and Sam in *Breakfast with Scot*, characters whose comfort is shaken by the arrival of a non-conforming kid.

"I'm deeply interested in all my work with the issues of comfort and settling, and of buying a place that is acceptable in the larger world, and then what we unwittingly surrender with that purchase," Downing said. "If we, the good people, get a purchase on comfort, there are a lot of people we exclude. Scot stands for the people who are not accepted into that society." ▼

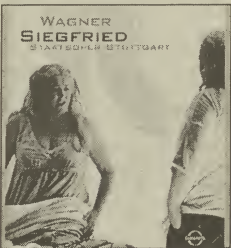
Breakfast with Scot will run at New Conservatory Theatre Center through Sept. 12. Tickets are \$20-\$32. Call 861-8972 or go to nctcsf.org.

'Ring' cycle

◀ previous page

trenchcoats simply prove that egalitarian grunge lowers the class of everybody on stage. I understand the German point that after the Holocaust there are no Gods, we are all guilty, everybody into the sewer — but Italians can be guilty and still dress well. Badly costumed and coiffed divas Renate Behle (*Walkure*), Lisa Gasteen (*Siegfried*) and Luana DeVol (*Gottterdammerung*) are desperately in need of gay friends.

If you close your eyes, the musical performance is very good. Conductor Lothar Zagrosek is lyrical and totally supportive of his singers. SFO patrons will recognize Angela Denoke (Sieglinde) and Robert Gambill (hunky, hairy Siegmund), Attila Jun (Hunding),



Jon Fredric West (whose well-sung but clownish young Siegfried unfortunately resembles Bruce Vilanch), Wolfgang Schone (Wanderer), and DeVol, an excellent Brunnhilde, though the costumer sabotages her for most of the opera with a pink nightgown and crocheted bedjacket. Her chic red ensemble for the "Immolation" comes as a great relief.

They all sing expressively, steadily, without much glamour, but also without strain. The finest pure voice belongs to Tichina Vaughn (Fricka, Waltraute) but the surprise for me was the *Gottterdammerung* Siegfried, Albert Bonnema (last heard at SFO in *Katya Kabanova*). They've unsubtly styled his hair like Hitler's, dressed him in skins and corporate suits, made him appear half-naked (not buffed, but for a tenor, a 10) and let him act like a blithering fool. Yet the guy has so much charisma, energy and blazing blue eyes that his farewell wrings you dry. Should he even be singing Siegfried? Not really; he's a lyric tenor, short several of the highest notes, but in this cold, harsh, smirking, ironic *Ring*, where there is almost nothing to fill your heart, Bonnema scores big-time. ▼

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Why is Luther Vandross in the B.A.R.?

New biography weighs the singer's undisclosed life and longing

by Brandon Judell

For centuries, the sex lives of homosexuals were celebrated in biographies with such an extraordinary discretion that the subjects themselves might have been convinced they had never been buggered, or, if a woman, been the recipient of cunnilingus from a lovely lady.

Then came gay liberation, and suddenly, everyone was queer to a degree, from J. Edgar Hoover to Sir Laurence Olivier to Tallulah Bankhead. It has now got to the point that if a book comes out today about a man or woman who's been totally straight his or her whole life, that is jaw-dropping news. Stop the presses. Tony Danza likes gals.

Happily, thanks to *Village Voice* and *Spin* contributor Craig Seymour, there is a new alternative in this genre. His brand new bio, *Luther: The Life and Longing of Luther Vandross* (HarperEntertainment, \$24.95), is about the acclaimed singer who constantly paints his bedroom pink when not wallpapering it in cashmere, yet refuses to reveal the sex of his love interests. Yes, here is the first out-of-the-closet/in-the-closet biography.

Seymour apparently wants us to acknowledge that Vandross, who is still recovering from a stroke, is queer, yet possibly for legal reasons, he can't say so.



'Undisputed voice of black love.'

Take this photo caption, please: "By the mid-1980s, Luther was the undisputed voice of black love, but he was also dogged by rumors about his health and sexuality. Luther poses here in a romantic shot with a female model, but in interviews he never revealed the name — or gender — of anyone he's dated."

Then in 1985, when the usually obese artist lost lots of weight, Seymour writes: "[Luther] was in love for the first time in much too long. Though he never shared the person's name or gender, Luther admitted that this love had turned him into a 'basket case.' Suddenly food lost its hold on him. There were other things on his mind — beautiful, rose-tinted, hope-filled things."

Jump to May 2001. While Sey-

mour was interviewing Vandross for *Vibe*, he asked the Grammy-winner, "So, how come we know so little about your love life?"

Vandross replied, "Because it is simply none of your... Because you're not entitled to. Based on me making records, no one's entitled to know any more than I tell them. That's just my position on that."

When someone else asked about his sexuality, Luther joked, "What do you want to know? Am I biocostal? Yeah, I have a house in Beverly Hills and one in New York."

Designing woman

So how do you create an entertaining, informative book about a star who you believe is gay, but you can't say so in print without a possible lawsuit? To be fair, Luther, who fought with Patti LaBelle over the last \$12,000 pocketbook in a store, might be straight or even asexual. And yes, a heterosexual might design gowns for Aretha Franklin in his spare time, as Luther does.

Well, what Seymour did to fill

in this sexual void was write about the folks around Vandross, and thankfully, Vandross knows everyone.

He even sang backup on David Bowie's "Young Americans." Bowie at the time had apparently told the press, "I like boys and I like girls — they're smashing." This made the Bronx-born Luther "very concerned."

Luther then worked with Bette Midler, who on their first meeting bit him on the nipple. This got Luther very upset. Then there are diva tales about Diana Ross, Dionne Warwick, Quincy Jones, Whitney Houston, Gladys Knight, and dozens more. Consequently, the book comes alive whenever the focus leaves Vandross, except possibly for the Jimmy Salveini tragedy.

Luther spotted Salveini on *Star Search* and decided to place the boy under his wing. The two, plus Jimmy's older brother Larry, were soon inseparable, until Luther was speeding one night and got into a car crash that killed Jimmy's sibling. Seymour shares that there were nasty rumors

about Luther having a crush on one of the brothers. "Some thought it was with golden-haired Jimmy; other speculated that he was involved with swarthy, mustached Larry." There was also unfounded gossip that Vandross was dying from AIDS.

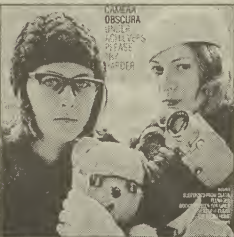
Most of the book, though, is about Luther's manic need to have a #1 hit, his aching for love, and his long wait for a Grammy. Whenever he fails in these quests, Luther balloons up to over 300 lbs. When he's happy, he goes down below 200. This happens in almost every chapter, *ad nauseam*.

But then, Luther had an odd start in life. When his mother was pregnant with him, she had a constant yen for pasta, but only for one brand, Ronzoni. Needless to say, when her little boy was born, she named him Luther Ronzoni Vandross. Happily, Ma Vandross didn't have a bad back during those nine months, otherwise Luther might have wound up with "Ben-Gay" as his middle moniker, and that would never have done. ▼

Great Scots

by Gregg Shapiro

As far as music from the UK goes, Scotland appears to be taking the lead in terms of new and noteworthy bands, as well as having established bands living up to their potential. Two of the most promising newcomers, Camera Obscura and Franz Ferdinand, have managed to release two of the best albums of 2004, while Belle & Sebastian and Travis released albums that maintained their status.



Underachievers Please Try Harder (Merge), Camera Obscura's glorious second full-length album, bubbles over with displays of retro homage while also sounding incredibly modern and hip. When crushed-out female lead vocalist Tracyanne Campbell sings, "I should be suspended from class/I don't know my elbow from my arse," in the song "Suspended from Class," most of us can relate to the feeling. The spirit of the late '50s rises like smoke from a filterless Camel on "A Sister's Social Agony" and "Teenager." Equally amazing is the way that John Henderson conjures Leonard Cohen on "Your Picture."

The Belle & Sebastian comparisons are almost unavoidable, but Camera Obscura is as much a quick study as they are original.



Currently taking the world by storm with the help of the extremely popular music video for "Take Me Out," Franz Ferdinand is making an indelible impression with its self-titled debut disc (Domino/Epic). Echoes of the past can be heard in Franz Ferdinand's music, and this all-male quartet owes a lot to the late '70s and early '80s. Every one of these 11 songs could inspire its own dance craze. Additionally, listeners should pay close attention to "Michael," a blast of homoeroticism that includes the chorus "Michael, you're the boy with all the leather hips/Sticky hair, sticky hips, stubble on my sticky lips," and continues, "Beautiful boys on a beautiful dance-floor/ Michael, you're dancing like a beautiful dance-whore."

Concerns about sexuality also arise in the song "Piazza, New York Catcher" on *Dear Catastrophe Waitress* (Rough Trade) by Belle & Sebastian. When lead vocalist Stuart Murdoch sings, "San Francisco's calling us, the Giants and Mets will play./ Piazza, New



York catcher, are you straight or are you gay?" he sets a familiar question to music. The album, produced by '80s legend Trevor Horn, is brimming with the Scottish band's trademark blend of lilting retro pop.



After releasing three acclaimed albums in a row beginning with '97's *Good Feeling*, and continuing through the universally praised *The Man Who* ('99) and *The Invisible Band* ('01), Glasgow-formed Travis lost some momentum with the harder-edged *12 Memories* (Epic/Independiente). But keep in mind the melodic experimentation of Scotland's King Creosote on the colorful album *Kenny & Beth's Musical Boat* (Domino). ▼

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Matriarchal lesbian

'My Mother Likes Women' in Spain

by David Lamble

The new Spanish screwball comedy *My Mother Likes Women* means to be a saucy sexy romp through the minefield of the modern family, where grownup children find themselves leading a counterrevolution against their more progressive parents.

Sofia (Rosa Maria Sarda) is a world-renowned concert pianist

who, having raised three daughters and divorced their father, decides to have one more great fling. At first, Sofia's daughters are happy that Mom will be getting some — happy, that is, until the lover walks in the door and turns out to be a female music student from the Czech Republic. Fearing that Eliska (Eliska Sirova) will eclipse them in their mother's heart — and replace them in her will — the daughters start plotting a palace coup.

The real affront, of course, is the deliciously Freudian dilemma of a parent choosing a bedmate of her children's age, thus erasing them from her life on a profoundly psychic level. The daughters, at times acting like a sitcom version of the three witches from *Macbeth*, decide that their best strategy is for one of them to seduce Eliska, and therefore inspire Mom to give her the heave-ho.

Sol (Silvia Abascal), the youngest sister and a flaming redhead, declares war with her rock band, performing a high-decibel rant against her Mom's affair at a nightclub, in front of Mom and everybody they know. The idea of using a kick-ass musical genre to deliver a reactionary, lesbian-bashing message is a funny idea, with repercussions that should cascade through the rest of the film.

My Mother really belongs to Elvira (the talented Leonor Watling of *Talk to Her* fame), the sister whose inner conflicts would have screwball potential if they were a tad more believable, and were enacted at a more frenetic pace. A profoundly neurotic character, it is Elvira who takes Mom's betrayal as a slur on her own credentials as a hetero woman. To make things worse and potentially funnier, she's also betrayed and exploited by two other authority figures: her penny-pinching publisher boss and her abusive psychiatrist. There is a funny mo-



Three Spanish sisters in a screwball comedy that doesn't quite screw.

ment where the lecherous shrink gets his comeuppance, although it's his tropical fish who will die for his sins, a gag that's becoming a new cliché in lightweight comedy.

Hunk alert

Into this mess walks Miguel (the hunky Chisco Amado), a successful novelist who is instantly smitten with Elvira. The scenes between Elvira and Miguel play like a Doris Day/Rock Hudson movie if Doris and Rock had interrupted their pillow talk for some risibly bad but not especially amusing rough sex. Watling gives Elvira an off-kilter, distracted air, as if she were constantly fretting over her next move. Imagine an Audrey Hepburn who suddenly thought she should behave more like Katharine.

Americans fans of Pedro Almodovar, especially his earlier, kinkier, nihilistic dark comedies, had to adjust themselves to an artist who would mock American pieties with unapologetically pe-

dophile dentists (*What Have I Done To Deserve This?*), rape scenes played as farce to illustrate the sins of a tabloid culture (*Kika*), and abusive lovers from hell who get swept up into a new definition of family without being tamed or sentimentalized (*Tie Me Up, Tie Me Down*). This Almodovar was a punky trickster who might just have had a live bomb ticking away in his back pocket.

Filmmakers Ines Paris and Daniela Fejerman let the Almodovarian torch slip through their fingers by pulling their punches, with the result that *My Mother Likes Women* is too nice a film for its own good. An extended coda (shot in the Czech Republic, it would appear, to satisfy the film's Czech investors) provides enough sappy happy-ending material for a whole season of *Eight Simple Rules for Dating My Teenage Daughter*, without providing a satisfactory conclusion to this film. ▼

Opens Friday.

Scared silly

Visiting 'The Village'

by David Lamble

My seatmate at a critic's screening of *The Village* informs me that she's a grabber.

"I get so excited during a scary movie that I may squeeze the leg of the person sitting next to me."

"Oh."

"Don't worry, I've finished my coffee, so I won't throw it on you."

"Thanks."

Having caught nothing but the buzz from the first three films of M. Night Shyamalan — and those great tag-lines like "I see dead people" — I was expecting to be scared, but now had the extra thrill of the possible mangling of my flesh by a deranged stranger.

Alas, my seatmate gasped a couple of times but never as much as touched my thigh. Now, I survived the falling hotel elevator at Disneyland, and I was hoping that *The Village*, with all its teasing ads of creepy people sulking about a forest in hooded robes, would be a little scary.

The tag-line on TV spots balmyhooing the wicked side of Vegas go, "What happens here, stays here." This should have been the motto for *The Village*. Altogether the best part of this beautifully filmed, well-cast pseudo-thriller takes place within a small cluster of souls that is an odd mix between a 19th-century Utopian community and an unusually paranoid branch of the Amish.

In this village, groups of sober citizens meet in terrified huddles after glimpsing the color code of the day, which is always red. It is awfully tempting to compare this council of elders to the Bush cabinet. William Hurt would be Tom Ridge, ready with a smile and elliptical warnings about "those we do not speak about." In *The Village*, intelligence reports are replaced by the carcasses of animals that have been ritually mutilated, or diabolical sounds emanating from the surrounding forest.

Joaquin Phoenix, who has an affinity for American Gothic, plays an introverted, almost mute farmer who decides to break the community's taboo about going into the woods, a violation that threatens some unknown pact agreed to by the elders, and spooks the hell out of everybody. Now, with a cast that includes Adrien Brody and Michael Pitt, this could have led to some devilish shit. Instead, we are merely treated to some punky, teen-style angst that goes nowhere.



Joaquin Phoenix breaks taboos.

Ominous shots of burning torches illuminating the forbidden woods are on the same scary scale: all sizzle and no steak.

Shyamalan aims for an experience that is both more and less than that offered by the traditional suspense film. There are moments in *The Village* that leave one breathless: a knife silently enters a man's stomach as if slicing through soft butter; for an instant, it's as if we've been stabbed. The terror is accentuated by the attack's being filmed from above the victim, and with an expression on the face of the attacker that hovers between a lunatic calm, an all-too-sane gloating, and the kind of blissful smile that one associates with deeply satisfying sex.

The showy performance, the one that is meant to be noticed, is from Bryce Howard (Ron Howard's daughter). Howard plays Hurt's blind daughter, displaying a talent for portentous line readings that can pass as good acting at Oscar time. The second time I saw *The Village*, at a public screening in Berkeley, a group of teenage girls giggled loudly every time Howard spoke. It was oddly reminiscent of how fans of *Blue Velvet* received the campy banter between Kyle MacLachlan and Laura Dern.

In 1960, on a TV budget, Alfred Hitchcock shot *Psycho*, a terrifying movie whose entire first half is an elaborate ruse designed to disguise not only the purpose of the film, but the identity of its protagonist. M. Night Shyamalan has concocted a big shaggy-dog of a pretend scary movie on a huge budget, one that leaves us with a TV-sized ending.

My seatmate and I sit in shocked silence as the credits roll. Like the end of a bad date, it's less painful to just slip away from each other in the dark. *Now playing.* ▼

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PHOTO BY TONY FONG

Collateral damage, bounces & scandals

by Victoria A. Brownworth

Let the games begin! And they will. Friday night, watch for the opening ceremonies for the Olympics. NBC will be all-Olympics, all the time for the next few weeks. That means scandals over steroid use and designer enhancement drugs will supersede political scandals for a time. Or at least until the Republican National Convention convenes at month's end in New York.

Jingoism over medals for athletics seems preferable to debates over what wounds in war constitute "real" wounds and are thus deserving of medals, the debate

that has been swirling on the tube this week.

The bounce from the Democratic Convention is officially done. It ended when a TV ad appeared August 5 attacking John Kerry's credentials as a war hero, suggesting that his medals weren't earned and that Kerry was not fit to be Commander-in-Chief. The ad is being promulgated by Bush supporters and features Vietnam veterans, none of whom served with Kerry.

The ad caused immediate controversy. Sen. John McCain (R-AZ), a close friend of Kerry's and a decorated Vietnam veteran himself, denounced the ad, calling it "dishonest and dishonorable" in a series of TV inter-

views and statements. McCain called on the White House to do the same. White House spokesperson Scott McClellan said the White House did not approve the ad and it did not speak for the President, but Washington sources said McCain pushed the President to speak directly to the substance of the ad. On August 6, Bush denounced independent ad campaigns, which he said had attacked him as well, referring to the anti-Bush MoveOn and Media Fund ad campaigns. (It should be noted, however, that the data in those ads is accurate, if hyperbolically presented.)

When pressed by reporters about calling for the blatantly false ad to be pulled from the air, Bush waved reporters off with a smile, noting, "I'm on vacation." (Again?)

Meanwhile, the terror alert went up again, although Bill Clinton told David Letterman in a solo guest appearance August 4 that he didn't think it was politically motivated. We aren't convinced. Nor, apparently, are most Americans. The August 5 edition of *Nightline* had folks on the street voicing questions about terrorism and security to George Stephanopoulos and a group of security and terrorism experts.

We were most impressed with Juval Aviv, Israeli security advisor and author of a new book on safety in a post-9/11 world. Aviv noted that when he and his security teams put suitcases and satchels outside restaurants and other public places in Israel, police were immediately called by passersby, the areas were cleared of people, and the objects removed by bomb squads. Similar tests were done in recent weeks in the US by Aviv's teams in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Washington, DC, and New York. "The suitcases are still there," he said, making clear that the government is not getting its message across about terrorism.

Possibly because of the presumed political conflicts suggested by Clinton on *Letterman*, Clinton complained that Homeland Security head Tom Ridge skewed the context by lauding Bush's handling of terrorism in the midst of issuing the alert.

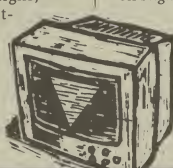
Filing pants

Clinton also had a different take on the political motivations behind allegations that his former security advisor Sandy Berger smuggled 9/11-related documents from the State Department in his pants. "Sandy has an organized mind and a disorganized desk," joked Clinton. "Anyone who knows Sandy knows how easily he misplaces things." He reminded viewers the papers allegedly taken were copies. Clinton added that Berger, who was investigated back in January, had already been cleared by the 9/11 Commission and the FBI when the story broke (right before the Democratic Convention) but his exoneration was not reported.

Which should remind viewers that even non-Fox news has its biases. Remember the coverage of Teresa Heinz Kerry telling a reporter to "Shove it?" That coverage, network and cable, failed to note that the reporter in ques-

tion was the minion of the same right-wing billionaire who tried to bring down the Clintons by accusing them of the murder of Vince Foster, and that he has been cornering THK everywhere she goes. No wonder Hillary responded "Bravo!" to THK's response.

Meanwhile, the usually reclusive Bruce Springsteen appeared on *Nightline* and other shows to



Lavender Tube

pitch his Rock the Vote tour, which will bombard swing states with concerts in October promoting voting against Bush. Ted Koppel queried Spring-

steen on whether being political was a departure for

him. Springsteen politely reminded Koppel that his songs have addressed political and social issues for 20 years. He declared Bush bad for the country and bad for Springsteen's young sons.

Heavy medals

The Olympics really are going to be such a welcome respite from all the political drama. Or at least a soothing diversion.

We are worried, however, about how the US will fare at the Games, particularly in swimming and track, given the scandalous implications over drug use that have dogged, through innuendo, US competitors. Marion Jones, one of the world's best track-and-field competitors, withdrew from a majority of qualifying events last month, citing stress. It would seem to us that unless testing actually reveals use of drugs, there is no crime. But many on the US teams have already been targeted as cheaters, which means any medals they win will be suspect.

Such innuendo damages both athletes and the Games. The Olympic Committee should get a plan about drug use and stick to it, so athletes aren't penalized by *sotto voce* commentary. Go USA!

Meanwhile, another scandal managed to wiggle onto the tube between politics and sports. Mary Kay Letourneau, the elementary school teacher who had a sexual relationship with her former second-grade student, Vili Fualaau, was 32 and the married mother of four when she and Fualaau, 12, first had sex, in the obverse of *Lolita*. Both claim they are soulmates and have two children together, which Fualaau, now 21, has custody over.

Letourneau was released from prison this week after serving every day of her seven-year sentence for rape. The bizarre story has been revived with her release, because America loves scandal, and Fualaau has appeared on talk shows, including *Today*, *ET* and *Celebrity Justice*, discussing his desire to see how the relationship with Letourneau develops upon her release. Letourneau is banned from seeing Fualaau, from teaching, from being around playgrounds and schools, and must register as a sex offender. Fualaau is petitioning the court to see her.

Expect tours from Letourneau and her young paramour on the talk-show circuit in coming weeks, and development of TV movies about their story. Rumor control on *Extra* implied

Letourneau will be writing a book about her "love affair," and that networks are interested. Stay tuned.

Hilton ho' tells

When we aren't watching for scandals on the tube, we are watching reality TV. Our summer guilty pleasure just ended its run on Fox: *The Simple Life 2*, with Paris Hilton and Nicole Ritchie. We know we shouldn't like this show, but we are already Tivo-ed for reruns. We even got fuzzy handcuffs after Nicole suggested them. A&E's just-debuted *Growing Up Gotti* is an adequate replacement, but Victoria Gotti just isn't as amusing as Nicole, and has none of her giddiness.

Our other fave reality show is CBS' *The Amazing Race*, which is simply superb, just as good as *Survivor*, to which we are addicted. Our favorite team still in the race are Charla, the dwarf, and her cousin Mirna. They are sooo terrific. We love Charla. (So does Jimmy Kimmel, who excerpts scenes from her performances every week on his show.) We also really like Chip and Kim, the Bible-thumping African American couple. What we like about these two teams is that they absolutely love the game and the places they have seen: last week, the Hermitage and other exotic Russian locales, and this week, the Pyramids and the Sphinx.

We like *AR* for the same reason we like *Survivor*: it has drama, fantastic sites, and the teams really have to do something, not just throw up on each other like in *Fear Factor*, or lie and cheat like on *Big Brother 5*.

Lying and cheating are why audiences watch soaps, and ABC and CBS have been promoting the heck out of their daytime lineups in anticipation of garnering NBC's soap audience during the Olympics. ABC has just introduced two new queer characters, both male, young and with hunk potential, on *One Life to Live*. Soon Marcie's gay brother will come to Llanview (her hunky older brother Ron is already there) after leaving the military. Mark, one of the college boys working on the summer project with Marcie, *et al.*, at the Love Shack, came out to Marcie last week. Queer-bashing has already been hinted at, and with the macho contingent running the show at the Shack, anything could happen.

We would like to see Bianca and Maggie cross over from *All My Children*, as many other characters have, to *OLTL* for a queer confab. It would be fantastic to see a really intense queer storyline among the young characters of both shows develop, during these months when youth audiences are tuning into soaps in mass numbers.

Finally, one doesn't have to be a sports maven to enjoy the Olympics: fantastic male and female athletes in peak condition at the literal top of their game. Swimming (even synchronized), track, gymnastics. Oh, the bodies. Watching PBS on the evolution of the games with its queer foundation has been interesting: ABC's *World News Now* has also done some intriguing spots on a similar theme. The Olympics are one guilty pleasure: erotic and jingoistic, what could be more fulfilling? Stay tuned and enjoy, because the Republicans are up next, and as we all know, they are not pretty. ▼

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ARTS

Oh, you beautiful doll!

Talking collectibles in Dollsville, U.S.A.

by David Batterson

Whether it's Gay Bob, Barbie, Ken, folk art creations or rare porcelain works, many in our community collect dolls. OK, some of us are closet doll-collectors! A major online supplier of dolls of every variety is Dollsville Dolls & Bearsville Bears. You can buy dolls cheaper at Wal-Mart, but Dollsville is where the true collectors shop!

They have a huge assortment of collector items, ranging from porcelain and vinyl dolls to designer Barbie Dolls and classic teddy bears like your grandma owned. The manager of the doll business is Yvonne Bluto, whose parents own the business, now in its 24th year. Although the company is located in a storefront, it does "mostly mail-order," Bluto explained.

"We get a pretty good cross-section of collectors," said Bluto. "We do have our solid grandmother who buys one Madame Alexander, or one Barbie for her granddaughter every year."

"But most of our collectors are collecting for themselves. It's

more of what I'd call a selfish business. They come in here because they want it for themselves." Bluto added, "A lot of them didn't have dolls when they were little."

What are the bestsellers these days? Madame Alexander and Robert Tonner, according to Bluto. "Alexander creates about 300 different dolls per year, and we have 200 of them in stock. Tonner spreads his line throughout the year," Bluto said "he's famous for his fashion dolls, and he also has a whole line of vintage dolls he creates. They are huge."

Tonner dolls are limited editions. "For example, Tonner will have an edition of 1,000, and we might get 100 of them to sell," Bluto said. "It depends. Sometimes we might get only five or 10."

As for prices, Dollsville has a broad range. "We have quite a few in the \$1,000-\$2,000 range," Bluto said. An average price is in the \$100 range.

Richard Simmons and Marie Osmond are the two big celebrity doll lines they sell. "Richard was here in November 2002," Bluto said. "We had a line out the door, and sales were fantastic."

Dollsville also features Annette Funicello, who has her own line of bears. "Her Angel Bears contribute to the MS fund."

If you love Lucy, you will love the Lucy doll by Barbie. "It's flat-out our most popular Barbie doll," said Bluto. They recently created their eighth Lucy doll this year.

Madame Alexander does a *Gone With the Wind* and *Wizard of Oz* series. "Those types of things are solid sellers," she said. "There are a whole set of people who only collect *Wizard of Oz* dolls."

For the bear collector, Bluto recommends the Steiff brand ("the premier bear"). She says it's "still No. 1 in the world, made in Germany, with the button in the ear."

Bluto does not recommend dolls as an investment. "They used to be a very solid investment; we had customers in the '80s and '90s who collected for investment. It's been a little more difficult the last few years."

"People should collect because it's what they enjoy," said Bluto. "Buy it because you like it." ▼

www.dollsville.com



Dollsville manager Yvonne Bluto with limited-edition vinyl doll Nessel.

Waking up to Mozart

New CDs of 'Figaro' & the Requiem

by Tim Pfaff

Mozart still confounds us with his greatness. It's been 13 years since his bicentennial, and we're still catching up. His every note has been recorded (hundreds of times over, in most cases), yet almost always, something new emerges. Great singers over 200 years have proved unable to exhaust his operatic characters, and a few of the works, despite some indisputably great performances, seem still to have eluded us.



Two of the most problematic, *Le Nozze di Figaro* and the *Requiem*, have recently reappeared in recordings that have claimed new turf. René Jacobs' new *Figaro* for Harmonia Mundi has solved more of the problems inherent in the work than any other single recording to date, though it will not be to every taste. Nikolaus Harnoncourt's *Requiem* (Deutsche Harmonia Mundi) arrives as one of the most deeply felt interpretations the piece has received — suffused with a personal terror, perhaps Mozart's, in the face of death — yet seeming gratuitously unfinished. Harnoncourt stubbornly presents it in the Süssmayr completion, albeit with the most egregious mistakes dusted off by the Franz Beyer edition.

I woke up to Mozart with the Peter Sellars Mozart-da Ponte opera productions. Sellars brought on new flavors. His first *Così* at the Summerfare in Purchase, New York, remains the seminal opera experience of my life. But I don't think Sellars ever got *Figaro* quite right, and I don't think he thinks he did, either.

Jacobs does. A musician whose theatrical instinct grows steadily alongside his highly developed musical ones, he monitors the constantly changing pulse of this subversive (his word) opera in a way that allows him to stay alert to both the fleetness of its comic moments and its deep undercurrent of class-war rage. I've not heard another conductor balance the two so deftly.

Tempting as it is to say that his secret is the lavish attention he pays to the text, it's his ability to bring out the meaning of the words as amplified by the music that brings this performance to brimming-over life. Arguably the greatest contribution of period-performance to the opera repertoire has been its continuous refinement of the art of recitative. Here we encounter it in full flower. The uniformly good cast is singing throughout, but the speech patterns brought forward so strongly in the recits set a new standard. Three and a half hours later, you know these people, and not just how well they sing.

Amazing men

The women — Patricia Ciofi's Susanna, Veronique Gens' Countess and Angelika Kirchschlager's Cherubino — are as ideal a trio as has been brought together in the studio. But it is the men who amaze. Lorenzo Regazzo's Figaro's barely suppressed rage throughout perfectly captures the feelings



of a servant whose betrothed could fall prey to his boss' decision to claim his lordly right to her virginity. The few seconds of music in which he bitterly reprises the "Se vuol ballare, Signor Contino" of his Act I aria is one of

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Pan handle

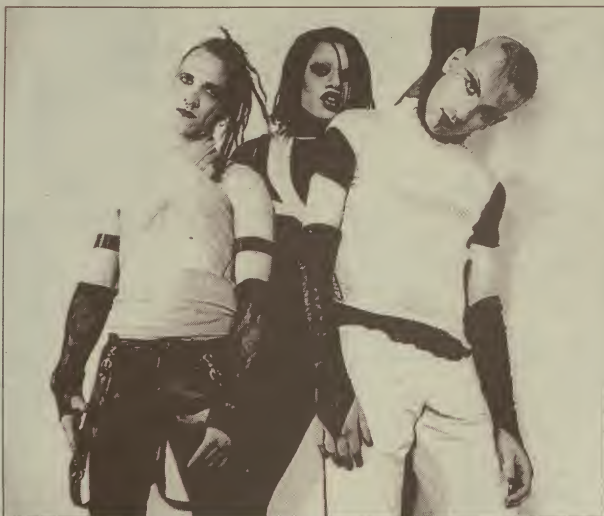
Finally the goddess moved me to partake of the summer faerie gathering up in Oregon, my first there and only my second gathering ever (the first, long ago at Malibu's Camp Shalom, served as my "Intro to Radical Faeries 101", including a long one-on-one talk with Harry Hay). As expected, the Wolf Creek gathering was spiritually transformative. I became more "aware," especially of the bugs and stickers. More surprising, I emerged with a new "identity." This startling turn of events took place at the **Nomenus** sanctuary, an intentional community situated in a secluded valley and dotted with a few cabins, with tent colonies sheltered under Douglas fir, madrone, big leaf maple and white oak. At Wolf Creek, the faeries thrive in peace. On occasion, they make ecstatic ritual, especially when the moon is full and blue.

Up to now I've resisted any drag name, even of the faerie/pagan variety. I do tend to hang with yoga faeries, garden faeries, music/performance/visual-art faeries, shamanic/healing-arts faeries, computer-geek faeries and the like (in addition to ordinary folk), and I'm charmed by their colorful appellations: **Dragonfly**, **Mugwort**, **Miss Jupiter**, **Abraxis**, **Heron**, **Peridot**, **Lorna Dune**, **Logos**, **Vision Seeker**, **Phoenix Rizing**, **onethousandonehundred**, etc. My mundane saintly name, Mark, paled by comparison. Now on occasion, I can get dolled up with my new faerie name, bestowed on me by **Wow** and other stoned faeries who, while trying to devise a proper name for a flute-playing faery, came up with "**Blowinda**." A bit blouzy, I thought. It needed padding. So with an eye to multicultural traditions and ancient mythology, with 10 seconds or so of meditation, I selected a more spiritually fulfilling moniker: **Pan Zephyrus Kokopelli née Krishna Blowinda**.

Just call me Pan Z. Or Koko Krishna. Or maybe Pan Zephyrus (good for formal occasions, recitations at the Forum, etc.). If I'm gettin' loose 'n' tipsy South of Market, by all means call me Blowinda. In faeriedom, names are fluid, meeting the spirit of the moment.

My thanks to those great flute-playing deities: **Pan**, Greek god of woods and fields; **Kokopelli**, Hopi flute player, icon of play and whimsy, audacity and sexuality; and **Lord Krishna**, Hindu god of the Universe, master of the erotic flute. Add to this charm bracelet **Zephyrus**, Greek god of the West Wind, and voilà! You've got me: flute-playing woodland faerie Pan Z.

Of course in real life, I'm mild mannered entertainment reporter Clark Kent. And speaking of faerie magic, while I was away, my wizard pal **DJ Logos**, master of the turntables on Monday nights at the **Powerhouse Bar** on Folsom St. (at Dore Alley), spun some amazing local-grown, computer-generated music by a young/cute (I'm told) barback named **Xian** (pronounced "Christian"). I wasn't there, but Logos played Xian's CD for me, and I immediately recognized an emerging electronic-music genius. Xian is but one of many up-and-coming e-music composers to have their stuff composed by Logos for his dedicated Monday late-night followers, so get your CDs to Logos at his show from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. and (if you're good) be heard. Peace. ▼



Mutilated Mannequins goth it up the Eagle Tavern. See Thursday.

Eri

Greek Gods Party

@ 'Camp Hairrison'

The "Hairison Street Fair" kicks off at "Camp Hairrison" (9th & Harrison) with **bigmusclebear.com's** "Greek Gods Party," a fundraiser and fun raiser. Suggested attire: Togas, sports uniforms, gym sweats, beadsheets. The party, coinciding with the Opening Ceremonies of the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, Greece (on projections & TV's throughout compound), is billed as "A tribute to the hairy muscled god in all of us." Full bars, a cafe, live music, DJs, dancing poolside and sweaty sport demos. Bears cruising! In the Big Tent: DJs Frank Lucas (Eagle) and Vicor Scaggs (Eagle). Poolside: DJs Donovan Whitehurst and John Rivie. Visuals: NightOwl Productions. A benefit for local sports teams including SF Fog Rugby, Golden Gate Wrestling, and Tsunami Water Polo. Sponsors: Gold's Gym & Zephyr Real Estate. Greek food! \$10 door (or Bear Tag pass), 6pm-1am. "Camp Hairrison," Best Western Civic Center, 9th & Harrison. Info: www.hairrison.org

Queer Open Mic @ Three Dollar Bill Café

A night of spoken word and open mic, hosted by Cindy M. Emch and featuring the superbly sexy talents local legends: Shar Red-nor & Jackie Strano. Proto feminist and genderqueer in scope, the night aims to combine the raunchy enthusiasm of the Hole in the Wall, the warmth and community of Ashkenaz, the unapologetic queer of the Bearded Lady, the radical politics of Café Macondo and the sweet rhythms of El Rio to create a space for spoken word, poetry and performance that is feminist, multi cultural, multi gendered, completely inclusive and dynamic. All proceeds benefit **Femina Potens** & The SF LGBT Community Center. \$1-\$5 sliding donation (NOTAFLÖF). 7:30 sign up, 8pm show. Event happens every 2nd & 4th Friday of each month. Three Dollar Bill Café, SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). Info: www.feminapotens.com; www.sf-center.org; www.threedollarbill.com

Zippy The Pinhead @ The Dark Room

Zippy The Pinhead in **FUN: The Concept**. Zippy, Bill Griffith's wacky roommate, escapes from the pages of his syndicated comic strip and springs to life in this original stage adaptation. See Mr. Toad discuss the meaning of life while chomping down a side order of Scapple. Listen to painfully in-

appropriate karaoke. Scratch your head in confusion as three rocks dispense business advice. Watch as Griffy and Zippy deal with real existential conundrums like: What is fun? Why is it usually day-glo pink? and Where does it hide when John Ashcroft comes to visit? Reality may never be the same. The Dark Room follows its sold out production of **Cue the Play** with this original adaptation, by Denzil Meyers and directed by Jim Fourniadis and Denzil Meyers. Based on the Zippy The Pinhead comic strip by Bill Griffith. Used with permission. Starring Bryce Byerly, Mikl-Em, Seanetta, Sherilyn Connelly, George Lewis and Katrina James. \$16 at the door; \$12.50 advance. Fridays and Saturdays, August 13, 14, 27, 28. The Dark Room Theater, 2263 Mission St. Tix: www.acteva.com/go/impred. Info: www.darkroomsf.com

screwup @ EROS

screwup, a BDSM event for transnics & queers (every second Friday at Eros), presents "Aggressive Bottoms and Service Tops, or Smashing the Binary." Have you ever felt that all of these "either/ors" in the kinky scene don't do justice to the limitless nature of your desire? Does the binary-oriented BDSM language system limit our ability to actualize our interests, needs and desires? Does breaking down the gender binary lead us to challenge the s/m binary, too? What's the easiest way to cruise as a switch? Join screwup for a fun informal discussion about the navigating all the (apparent) opposites of the BDSM community. Bring questions, opinions, and stories! screwup is for transnics, queers, and our friends. Open to all genders. Held in the meeting space at Eros. Folks sometimes go out for coffee or food afterwards. Free (donations welcome for a charity to be determined that evening). 7:30-9:30pm. Eros, 2051 Market St. Info: www.screwup.info; www.erossf.com

Sat 14

Breakfast With Scot @ NCTC

Opening night: The New Conservatory Theatre Center's **Pride Season** Ten presents the world premiere of NCTC-commissioned comedy **Breakfast With Scot**, by Michael Downing, based on his novel of the same title. A gay couple, Sam and Ed, inherit a child, Scot, an 11-year-old Truman Capote or Quentin Crisp, limp wrists and all. Scot shows up with a musical hairbrush, a pair of lacy white socks, and two makeup kits. He wears a white patent-leather belt with "pink dancing dogs and

jazzy little musical notes" on it, and his interest in school sports is limited to baton twirling and possibly cheerleading. \$40 opening night; \$32 Saturdays; \$28 Fridays; \$26 Thursdays & Sundays. 8pm (2pm Sun. Aug. 22 & 29, Sept. 5 & 12). Runs thru Sept. 12. NCTC, 25 Van Ness Ave. (at Market). Tix: 415-861-8972; www.nctcsf.org

An Evening with Spencer Day @ NCTC

The New Conservatory Theatre Center's "In Concert Series" presents **An Evening with Spencer Day**, a personal journey told through classic American songs and the premiere of some new original compositions. Spencer Day is a Utah-native, San Francisco-adopted singer, songwriter, pianist and band leader. He performs solo and with his quintet in the Bay Area, wowing audiences with his amazing skill, showmanship and humor. Day has performed at such venues as the Plush Room, Herbst Theatre, the Great American Music Hall, and NYC's Town Hall. He emerged on the local scene after he moved here from studying opera in LA, when he and friends created "The Crimson Club," a bawdy, whimsical cabaret at the Stud Bar. \$25 Fri. & Sat.; \$20 Sun. matinee. 8pm (3pm Sun.). Show runs thru Aug. 29.

Gay & Lesbian Sierrans @ Ft. Baker

Fort Baker Adopt-a-Site Day. Join Gay and Lesbian Sierrans for an ongoing habitat restoration project at Fort Baker, at the north end of the Golden Gate Bridge. Meet 9:15am at the parking lot between the Parade Grounds and the Bay Area Discovery Museum. Work boots required. Dress for dirty work, bring layers, rain gear and water. Info: sfbay.sierranclub.org/GLS

Bearrunch

@ Lone Star Saloon

Bearrunch! Get the day off to a grand start by dropping by the Lone Star, chugging a Bloody Mary and diving into the continental breakfast. Free breakfast snacks? 9am-12 noon. The Lone Star Saloon Harrison St. (btwn 9th & 10th). Free for all Bear Tag holders. Info: www.hairrison.org

Bears Gone Wild!

@ 'Camp Hairrison'

The Bears Gone Wild Pool Party! Always the smash at Lazy Bear Weekend, the crazy gang from Bears Gone Wild are teaming up with DJ Rotten Robbie for an afternoon party by the pool. Tropical drinks, complimentary "Manwiches," and ice cream social. \$10 includes re-entries all day. 12noon-10pm. The Best Western Civic Center. Entry on Harrison Street @ 9th (next door to The Lone Star Saloon), 12 noon-4pm



Jackie Strano and Shar Rednaur perform at the first "Queer Open Mic" at Three Dollar Bill Café. See Friday.

Raging Stallion Beer Bust

@ 'Camp Hairrison'

Join Eric Evans and Bo Knight for "The Raging Stallion Beer Bust," a mix of porn stars, all-you-want-beer and a giant twister mat. Special guest DJs and the first annual pie-eating contest! A benefit for South Bay Bears. 3pm-7pm.

Queer Ballroom Party @ The Center

Queer Ballroom Party. No partner or experience needed! 7pm Basic Fox Trot lesson; 8pm West Coast Swing lesson; 9pm to Midnight ballroom and social dance music! Donations: \$10 or half off if in weekly classes! FREE if Under 21! SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). Info: 415-305-8242; QueerBallroom.com

SF Hiking Club

@ Muir Beach

Join other outdoors lovers for a bike ride across the Golden Gate Bridge to Tennessee Valley followed by a hike to Muir Beach. It's a moderate 10-mile hike with a 1,500-ft. elevation gain. Meet 9:15am at McLaren Lodge, Fell & Stanton streets. Info: 415-487-6410; www.sfhiking.com

Rough Cut Film Fest @ ATA Gallery

Rough Cut Film Festival 2004, a showcase of trailers, new, and unfinished films. The first film festival where the audience gets to help the filmmakers finish up their work. This is a new idea in film festivals and market research. The audience finally gets to have a chance for all these "Well, if I was making this film..." to be heard. \$5. 8pm. Info: www.lily-

cat.com/rufffilms.html

DIY Video Activism Workshop

@ Femina Potens

Video Activism Now: DIY Video Production Workshop — A focus on the Queer! Instructors: Jennifer Gilomen (a.k.a. JenG) & Shani Heckman (a.k.a. Shane Star). In Day 1, learn the basics of pre-production, digital video production, and postproduction, and make a 3-minute movie you can take home with you. Instructors will provide a list of starter topics (some narrative, some documentary), and students will choose one project to pursue as a group and crew. Day 2 will cover interview lighting and postproduction. Each student takes home a zine, curriculum materials, a VHS copy of the class movie, and a list of friends who can crew your next project. Emphasis is on video activism — video production on the super-cheap for Mission kids, punks, queers, video newbies, and those itching to tell a good story. \$100 (\$80 if you make less than \$20k/year). 10am-5pm, Sat.-Sun., Aug. 14-15. Day 1 will be at Femina Potens, 465 South Van Ness @ 16th St. Day 2 will be at a location two blocks away. Info: www.forwardfilms.org

Hear Our Voice @ The Rainbow Room, Hayward

Tiffany Woods Productions presents "Hear Our Voice," a transgender event to increase visibility for transgender women who live in the East Bay and surrounding areas. A benefit for the Gwen Araujo Memorial Fund for Transgender Education, Horizons Foundation. Starring Trans Central Station! Featuring TG entertainers from the Bay Area. \$6 beer



Spencer Day opens a two-week concert run at the New Conservatory Theatre Center. See Saturday.

bust. 8pm. Rainbow Room, 21859 Mission Blvd., Hayward. Info: 510-713-6690, ext. 9; tiffbrid@aol.com

Bears on the Edge

@ The Edge Bar
"Bears on the Edge," in which Gary, Dave and the crew at the Edge throw a bear-a-pa-loozal \$7 Beer Bust (free w/ Bear Tag). 9pm-12 midnight. The Edge Bar, 18th St. (at Collingwood).

Sun 15

Hairrison Street Party

The First Annual Hairrison Street Party — The World's First Bear Street Fair! Join thousands of your bear friends hanging out, dancing and partying in the streets! As the website says (www.hairrison.org): "In a city famous for its unique characters, unique streets and unique street-fairs, The Hairrison Street Party will be no exception. Hairrison is being designed more like a giant community bear bust than a traditional fair with booths selling stuff — perfect for the kind of friendly, low-attitude, cuddly vibe that the bear community is known for."

Five different entertainment venues on Hairrison St. between 9th & 10th. On the Rock Stage: Ex Boyfriends (12:30); Shawna Virago & the Deadly Nightshades (1:15pm); The Whoa Nellies (2:45pm); The Bobbleheads (3:30pm); Pepperspray (4:15pm); The Ethel Merman Experience (5:15pm). Plus: The SWEAT Dance Stage; The Sundance Saloon Country Western Dance Tent; The Cuervo Beach Party; The Lone Star Saloon stage. Info: www.hairrison.org

SF Concerto Orchestra

@ Victorian Englander House

The San Francisco Concerto Orchestra performs Bach, Chopin, Wagner & Liszt. Geoffrey Gallagos, conductor, with Seth Montfort piano; SF Symphony violinists Victor Romasevich & Philip Santos; Dave Scott, trumpet. 7pm dress rehearsal (\$15); 8:30pm performance (\$20). Doors open 6:30pm. Victorian Englander House, 807 Franklin St. (btwn Turk & Edwy). Info: 415-362-6080; www.sfcclassicalmusic.com

Hiccup! @ Corona Heights Park

HICUP! pic-up queer and genderful playgroup. what to bring: your frisbee, football, basketball, tennis shoes, wrestling shoes, black boots, belt bottoms, imagination, snazzaroons, snacks, toilet paper, energy for playing, cheering or watching, chapstick, lipstick, vasoline, water balloons. LET'S GET IT ON! Noon to 3 pm (or later). Corona Heights Park, States Street off Castro (up the hill from the gas station), group! http://groups.yahoo.com/group/kitology_hiccup

Victor J. Banis: The Man from C.A.M.P. @ Main Library

Reading with Victor J. Banis, the prolific author of *The Man from C.A.M.P.* series of gay pulp novels, which were recently republished, will be interviewed by writer/director F. Allen Sawyer, whose *Hot Pants Homo Players* will perform an excerpt from the recently republished classic stories. Book sale and signing will follow the event. Free. 2pm. All ages. Main Library, Koret Auditorium, lower level, 100 Larkin at Grove. Info: www.sfpd.org

Divas Sundays

@ The Cafe

Community icon Tita Aida hosts "Divas Sundays," a drag/transgender revue featuring The Rice Girls (lip-synch diva drag group) and invited trans/drag performers, with DJ Matthew Baker spinning tunes. No cover. Shows at 9:45 & 11:30pm. The Cafe, Market & Castro. Info: titaaida@apiwellness.org

Hairrison Street Fair Closing Party

@ Loft 11
bigmusclebear.com & Friction-Events.com — the gang who brings you the monthly "Fusion" Parties — present a high energy, fur flying dance party in the old Tank Brewery, with DJ Reed McGowan (Eagle, NYC) in the Main Room and DJ Jonathon Wiggins (Sundance) in the Lounge. \$15



The Rice Girls steam up The Café as Tita Aida hosts "Divas Sundays". See Sunday.

day of event (\$10 w/Hairrison Bear Tag); \$10 advance. 6pm-midnight. Loft 11, 316 11th St (btwn Folsom & Hairrison) Tix at The Barking Frog or at DungeonBeds.com

Mon 16

Chix with Stix

@ Bistro La Mooné

Chix with Stix: Celebrating Our Three Women Conductors. An After-work reception to "Meet Our Three Women Conductors/Artistic Directors and Dance." Did you know that all three of the major LGBT performing arts groups founded by John Sims are conducted by women? You're invited to meet them. Free! Enjoy hors d'oeuvres from Bistro La Mooné's Chef Rami, a no-host bar, dancing women, and meet our three "way cool" women conductors/artistic directors of major San Francisco performing arts groups: Jadine Louie, San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band (www.sflgfb.org); Dr. Kathleen McGuire, San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus (www.sfgmc.org); and Stephanie Smith, Lesbian/Gay Chorus of San Francisco (www.lgcsf.org). Find out about their upcoming events and concerts. Free. 6-10pm (6pm - Reception - Meet & Greet; 7pm - Remarks and Introductions; 7:30pm - Dancing). Bistro La Mooné — Fusion Restaurant & Bar, 4072 18th Street (at Castro). Please RSVP with the names & number of your guests! Call 415-865-3650, ext. 14 or e-mail: DSAvoic@sfgmc.org.

Spurs-N-Fur benefit

@ The Edge

Spurs-N-Fur Rodeo Roundup benefit for Under One Roof with MC Deana Dawn, entertainment, \$7 beer/soda bust, raffle. No cover. 8-11pm. The Edge, 4149 18th St. Info: (415) 863-4027.

Tue 17

Viva Variety 42

@ Burriel Clay Theatre

"Make It So Productions" presents Viva Variety 42. A benefit for Magnet. Hosted by Steve Murray, "the new Ed Sullivan," and featuring an eclectic mix of the finest performers from dance, performance arts, physical circus, comedy, theatre, spoken word, and music, including: Tim Hockenberry - musician; Kilebasia - accordionist; Amy Boyd - comic; Zack Ferris - jazz artist; Philip Jones - dance artist; Diamond Daggers - burlesque; and Shelley Steward - comedy. This show is a benefit for Magnet (magnetsf.org), whose mission is to promote the health and well-being of gay men in SF. \$15 (\$10 seniors/students/physically challenged), available from "Make It So Productions" 415-863-0741 ext. #2. \$15 (\$10 seniors/students/physically challenged). 8pm. One Performance Only. Burriel Clay Theatre, 762 Fulton St. (at Webster). Wheelchair accessible. Parking available.

able in lot adjacent to theatre. Tix: 415.863.0741 ext. #2. Info: www.vivavariety.org

Shawn Ryan

@ Empire Plush Room

The Empire Plush Room and San Francisco audiences welcomes the return Bay Area native Shawn Ryan, winner of the 2000 Bay Area Cabaret Competition and a dazzling performer who combines classic standards and insightful comedy. Mr. Ryan will launch an extensive national tour of his new cabaret show at the Empire Plush Room with his music director, Kelly Park. His local theatrical credits include the New Conservatory Theatre Center, and the San Jose victory Theatre, in addition to such film and television work as *American Wedding*, *First Daughter*, *The Job*, and *Boston Public*. \$20-\$25 cover & two drink minimum. Show runs Aug. 17-22. The York Hotel, 940 Sutter Street (@ Leavenworth). Tix/Info: 415-885-2800; www.empireplushroom.com

Wed 18

Smack Dab @ Magnet

Smack Dab, an open mic hosted by Kirk Read and Larry-Bob Roberts. Bring five minutes of words, music, comedy or miscellany, or just come to back in the glow. Featured performers: the legendary Bambi Lake and literary spectacularist Alvin Orloff. It would take a book to describe the life of Bambi Lake, and that book has been written, in the form of the memoir *The Unsinkable Bambi Lake*, co-written with Orloff. Her songs have been performed around the world not just by Bambi but also by Kiki and Herb. Alvin Orloff began writing in 1977 as a teenage lyricist for The Blowdryers, a punk band. After studying sociology at U.C. Berkeley he dabbled in underground theater with The Sick & Twisted Players, performance art with the Popsittutes, and deejaying at Baby Judy's neo new-wave nightclub, before wholly succumbing to his literary pretensions. His writing can be found in numerous zines and anthologies, and his latest novel is *Gutter Boys* (Manic D Press 2004). All ages and genders will be welcomed and adored. Free! 7:30 Sign-Up, show starts at 8pm. Magnet, 4122 18th St. (btwn Castro & Collingwood). Info: www.magnetsf.org

Mariette Pathy Allen @ A Different Light Bookstore

Gender Frontier author Mariette Pathy Allen documents the lives of extraordinary transgender individuals, their partners, families and friends, including both female-to-males and male-to-females, as well as queer youth. Free. 7pm. 489 Castro St. Info: 415-431-0891; www.adlbooks.com

SF Hiking Club @ Berkeley Rose Garden

Join other outdoors lovers for a brisk evening walk from the Berkeley BART station through the UC Berkeley campus to the Berkeley Rose Garden for a spectacular view of the Golden Gate Bridge. It's a moderate 4-mile

hike with a 400-ft. elevation gain. Meet 5:30pm at the Berkeley BART Station, near the entrance on street level. Info: 415-487-6410; www.sfhiking.com

Thu 19

Beautiful Radiating Energy @ ATA Gallery

In *Beautiful Radiating Energy*, artist K8 Hardy militantly confronts the audience to possess and critique sexist stereotypes. The performance draws upon the personal politics from the Women's Liberation and Riot Grrrl movements, which are rendered both in Hardy's physical and cinematic language. K8's performance is part political call to action and also a visceral, motivational homage to past forms of queer and feminist protest and resistance. \$5. 8pm. ATA, 992 Valencia @ 21st. Info: 415-824-3890; www.atastite.org

Jaime Cortez' Sexile @ El Ambiente

Signing for *Sexile*, a graphic novel/comic by Jaime Cortez. Published by AIDS Project Los Angeles, the 140 page bilingual comic traces the life of SF transgender activist, HIV educator and artist Adela Vazquez. It's a salty, hilarious, moving gender-epic that takes you from revolutionary Cuba to AIDS era Los Angeles in the '80s. Everything you ever wanted to know about the great TRANSFORMATION (communist to capitalist) is revealed at last in the glossy pages of this groundbreaking book. Snacks, tunes and soft drinkables. \$5-\$10 sliding (NO-TAFLOF). Admission gets you a free copy of the graphic novel. Jaime Cortez and Adela Vazquez will be there to sign your book. 7-9pm. El Ambiente, 1841 Market Street, 3rd Floor (at Guerrero).

Mutilated Mannequins @ Eagle Tavern

Rock out with your cock out to the live sounds of Holy Kiss, Mutilated Mannequins, The Sixteens, and Unicorn Stickers. \$5-\$6 cover. 9pm. 21 + w/d. The Eagle Tavern, 398 12th St. (at Harrison). Info: www.eaglesf.com

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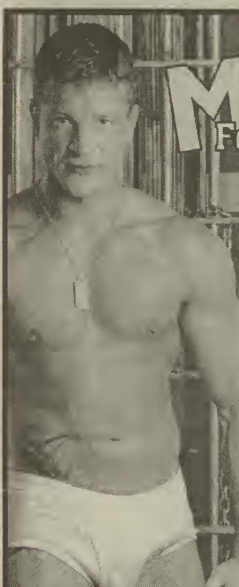
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(photo courtesy of falcunstudios.com)

'Pandora' is Ms. World Leather

Teddy & Steff win Int'l Deaf Leather titles

by Mister Marcus

DALLAS, TEXAS: It was hot and humid in the eastern flank of the Lone Star state last weekend, but within the confines of the Sheraton Brookhollow Hotel and the Dallas Eagle, it was as cool as could get. A leather free-for-all was taking place, a feast for the senses. Contestants, judges, vendors, ne'er-do-wells, newbies, oldies, and holy cows of the leather pantheon gathered to support three major leather titles: Mr. and Ms. International Deaf Leather, and Ms. World Leather.

San Francisco's own Queen Cougar ably MC'd all portions of this contest and did a great job keeping it interesting and moving it along. The four deaf interpreters did an outstanding job with their tasks.

Only one woman vied for the Ms. Deaf title, and three men competed for Mr. Deaf.

The deaf leather contest meet-and-greet at the Dallas Eagle on Thursday night kicked off the weekend. Steff Juge (for Ms.), with Jeff Barrett, Jerry Garmany and Paul O'Rourke (for Mr.) were introduced, and they faced judges early on Friday morning. The judging interviews for both the deaf and Ms. World were open to the public.

On Friday evening, the contest got underway with three very qualified deaf interpreters. The "prison" theme, with a fantasy of many former Mr. Int'l. Deaf Leathers, was well received as it opened the show. The contestants breezed through the physique, speech and leather image categories with "Steff" performing a fantasy instead of a physique showing. The MCs did a good job and when the scoring was completed, "Steff" Juge of San Diego made the required number of points to be named Ms. International Deaf Leather and Paul "Teddy" O'Rourke was named Mr. International Deaf Leather. Paul was formerly Mr. Deaf Baltimore Eagle 1996, Mr. Detroit Eagle Leather 2001 and Mr. Michigan Leather 2002 and currently resides in Philadelphia.

Six women were vying for the Ms. World title. On Friday night, the Ms. World Leather contestants were Daddie Millarca of Chicago; Karen Yew of Coronado, California; Mera Harned of Dallas, Texas;



It's a new Ms. World: "Pandora," left, formerly Ms. Philadelphia Leather, is now Ms. World Leather 2004. She celebrates her victory with first runner-up "Ultra" of Chesterfield, Missouri. They were chosen at the contest in Dallas, Texas last Sunday, August 8.

"Pandora" of Philadelphia; "Panther" of Seattle and "Ultra" of Chesterfield, Missouri. They were introduced at the Dallas Eagle for the meet-and-greet portion, and on Saturday morning the Ms. World Leather contest was in



Leather

well underway as leather/kink people were arriving every minute.

As the open-to-the-public the rapid-fire "press" interviews were conducted, they were well received by an enthusiastic crowd, and it was a good day for everybody, including the vendors, the contestants and the judges.

There was a glorious champagne and cake reception for the outgoing Goddess Lakshmi, and the basket auction reaped a hearty sum in the \$4,000 range.

On Sunday morning, a sumptuous buffet greeted the weekend package holders, and at 1300 hours exactly, the final portion of the competition got underway.

During the proceedings, it was announced (among other things) that beginning in 2005, the Ms. World Leather competition would be enhanced by the addition of a

Mr. World Leather title. Also, the contest venue moves to Las Vegas, Nevada in 2005.

Jill Carter was announced as the new president of Ms. World Leather.

Thanks were generously doled out to volunteers, judges, vendors, the press, the hotel staff, and former IMs.L. Jo Blas who was in charge of security and with little difficulty kept the "riff-raff" away from the crowd and the basket-auction tables.

Goddess Lakshmi gave a touching 11-minute step-aside speech, during which she proposed marriage to her long-time companion "The Limey" — and of course he accepted!

The Goddess provided a flashy slide show to pinpoint major and minor highlights of her year with the title, and she thanked everyone who made her a successful major titleholder.

Finally, tally-master Norm Ashton and his trusty assistant, So. Central Leather Boy Ed Kosary, delivered the results to the stage as the six women once again lined up for the announcement.

The hushed audience, held in suspense, exploded into cheering

next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Weekend, August 13-15

The Northern California Leather Sir/boy competition up at the Russian River. Headquartered at Fife's Resort, with events all over town. Brian Williams and Roger Hunt pass the sash to successors.

In Tronto, Leather Ball X at the Opera House on Saturday and Church Street Fetish Fair all day Sunday.

Wednesday, August 18

Leathermen's Discussion Group presents "Voices of Deaf Gay Leathermen" upstairs at Blow Buddies tonight at 1930. Featured speakers: Daniel Sonnenfeld, Dave Hindrickson, Billy Raby and others. Moderated by Houston Davenport.

Friday, August 20

Daddy's Mr. Leather Contest at Daddy's tonight around 2100. Julian Marshburn passes his Daddy's sash to a successor.

Mr. Bolt (Sacramento) Leather John Yant presents "Beating the Doors Open" from 2000 to 2400 with door prizes, raffles, flogging demos and 50/50 raffle. For more info: MrBoltLeather@pacbell.net.

Saturday, August 21

Damon Holzum will step aside tonight as Mr. Powerhouse Leather is chosen in a contest there around 2100. Hope to

Chitchat and whatnot

by Sweet Lips

Empress China Silk was kind enough to send word about two events coming to you this week. First up, on Saturday, August 14, at Dolores Park, Emperor Fernando and Empress China Silk will be hosting a BBQ for all royalty and hangers-on, from 12 Noon to 6 p.m. They're asking \$5 a plate, and they promise games and prizes. See who will become the new Mr. Golden Gate!

Then on Sunday, August 15, at Aunt Charlie's Lounge (133 Turk St.), Emperor Ernesto and Empress Amber Alert of LA/Hollywood are hosting a fundraiser for the royals' Charity Fund. Food will be served at 4 p.m., and the show will take place at 5 p.m., with many prizes to be won.

Remember, X-mas queens, it's only four months 'til Christmas, so you bar-owners better start behaving and begin making your catering plans now! Just know that our old friend Dennis Tyler is the best of the catering lot, and his calendar is quickly filling up, so catch him while you can. Tell him I sent you!

In the ever-changing face of Polkstrasse, the old Hob Nob Lounge at 700 Geary St. has given way to (yet another) new coffeehouse! From all reports, they serve a great cuppa Joe. Give them a try. Charlie, formerly of Sutter's Mill and the Giraffe, is the new manager of Kimo's on Polk. Here's to plenty of Hawaiian cocktails! Aloha or Mahalo, or whatever is appropriate!

It's finally reopened — Sears' Fine Foods at 439 Powell St. (at Sutter), continuing a long tradition (since 1938) with the one and only Joe Kobler, formerly of Maye's Oyster House, as General Manager. Joe says that many of the former wait-staff will be joining him, and they will be open for dinner. New owners, new management — can't wait, Joe!

Pine Street beat

Mark your calendars now for the biggest sidewalk sale this summer. The Pine Street Volunteers' Annual Sidewalk Sale is just a few weeks away, so start saving your

pennies. You'll find lots of treasure to take home, and the money collected will benefit the AIDS Emergency Fund. Penny collections will be welcomed for the Jumbo Penny Bank. The big event will take place on Saturday & Sunday, August 28 & 29, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., at 1174 Pine St. (at Leavenworth).

Well, it certainly was nice to see Mitchell this past weekend. It seems that living in upstate New York agrees with him, as he looks fabulous! Of course, being with

Empress José would make anyone look great.

Oh yes, the fabulous Mame of Portland called, is doing well, and said to say hello to all her friends in SF. She won't be down here for awhile, as she is working so hard up North.

Just so you know (and because Wayne Friday suggested I let you know), in the upcoming Presidential election, I am voting Kerry/Edwards, as I'm a Democrat, and Bush has got to go, sooner rather than later. ▼



Cocktail Hour

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

and wild applause as "Ultra" was named the first runner-up. Her platform: HIV Clinical Trials. The Ms. World shawl, leather roses, back patch, gold medal and trophy glistened under the intense light as Queen Cougar announced that the 2004 Ms. World Leather was "Pandora", formerly Ms. Philadelphia Leather.

Bedlam broke out, cameras flashed, and a friendly mob rushed the stage after the announcement.

Pandora's platform is "Organ Donor Awareness," so expect the next year to be an informative barrage of information about the vital importance of embracing organ donor plans. No doubt Pandora will encourage all to be aware of this very necessary service for thousands of people.

It was a great weekend in Dallas. Dan Azavedo (So. Plains Leather SIR) managed to get laid more than anyone in attendance and those delightful women from the Andromeda Club of Asbury Park, New Jersey certainly impressed the delegates to Ms. World weekend.

The judges were treated royally by the hosts in Dallas, pampered and greeted with out-of-the-ordinary respect and graciousness. The staff of the Sheraton went out of their way to assure everyone: "If you find something that is disagreeable to you, let us know and we'll fix it."

So hats off to the folks in Dallas, and congratulations to the winners!

Titleholders come . . . and go!

Darryl Jansson passed his Mr. Hayes Valley Leather sash to Jay Harcourt and from all reports, delivered a very stirring step-aside speech at Marlena's last Saturday night.

At Daddy's on Sunday, former female leather title holder Beth Downey managed to win the Mama's Whipping Post name tag. In Palm Springs, Andrew Hed-



"Steff" Juge of San Diego was chosen Int'l. Ms. Deaf Leather, and Paul "Teddy" O'Rourke of Philadelphia was named Int'l. Mr. Deaf Leather last Friday, August 6 in Dallas, Texas.

ley won the Palm Springs Leather Sir title, and his real-life boy, Bernard Stauffer, is the PS Leather boy. They advance to compete at the So. Calif. Leather Sir/boy contests.

In a surprising development, the SF Leather boy, "J.R." Cintron, surrendered his title and sash and was replaced by one Phil Nickerson who advances to compete for the Northern California Leather Sir/boy contest this weekend up at the Russian River.

Stay tuned to this column for all the latest developments in the leather world. Be assured the

B.A.R. is still working on creating a fantastic new website. Stay tuned. Also be advised that Joe Gallagher of www.LeatherPage.com is in Europe and no updates on that page will be made until after the end of August.

Dot, dot, dot — Dish!

Philip Dietch of St. Louis, a widely-known top, got himself paired up with an "alleged" top in Dallas over last weekend, and the odds are being bet that the "alleged" top in Dallas finally surrendered, shattering fantasies from coast to coast. ▼

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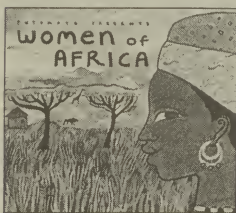
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More music of world and spirit

by Jason Serinus



Women of Africa, Various (Putumayo)

Putumayo seems to thrive on world music compilations assembled from major and independent labels. While the majority of their choices share modern beat and sound, the lyrics themselves often address timeless struggles for freedom and independence. That we can smile and dance to

South African Sibongile Khumalo's "Mayihlome," a song that addresses the battle against HIV/AIDS in South Africa and the need for collective effort, or enjoy Zimbabwe-born Dorothy Masuka's retro 1950s South African jazz-style update "Mfan' Omncane" without knowing that she was exiled from her adopted country in 1961 after one of her songs was banned as anti-government propaganda, is simultaneously comforting and disturbing.

Part of the "feel good" sameness of these pieces has to do with Putumayo's remastering technique, which homogenizes differences in recording quality and sonics to produce a smooth compilation. Regardless, there is much to enjoy.

Artists include transcontinental star Angélique Kidjo and Senegal's Maria de Barros (god-daughter of Cape Verde's Cesaria



Evora). Standouts include Algerian Souad Massi, whose heart-rending, soulful invocation of the realities of war and spare guitar accompaniment bear similarities to early Tracy Chapman, and the *a cappella* Women of Mambazo, whose Zulu founder Nellie Shabalala was assassinated in 2002. For voices that address darkness with light, take a listen.

Hortus Deliciarum, Discantus, Brigitte Lesne, Hildegard Von Bingen (Naïve)

This beautiful disc of Gregorian chant honors the work of two great European women of the 12th century, Hildegard Von Bingen (1098-1179) and Herrad Von Landsberg (d. 1195). That the music is sung by Discantus, Brigitte Lesne's excellent *a cappella* ensemble of eight women, enhances the spirit of reverence and purity of the selections.

Hildegard's music, originally popularized via the best-selling disc *A Feather on the Breath of God* from Gothic Voices and soprano Emma Kirkby, reflects the deep faith of its creator. Known as the "Sybil of the Rhine," Hildegard was dedicated to serving the Church by her parents at birth. She began to have visions at age three, and eventually moved to religious orders where she remained all her life. During that time, she experienced spiritual awakening, and wrote and published volumes of music, spiritual and scientific writings, and artwork. So great was her mind that



even the men of the church were moved to honor her.

"All the arts serving human desires and needs are derived from the breath that God sent into the human body," wrote Hildegard. Honoring music as a shared experience of communion with the divine, she believed that singing God's praise was an "echo of the harmony of heaven."

Herrad Von Landsberg compiled the *Hortus Deliciarum*, a veritable encyclopedia of learning, while serving as an abbess of the Monastery in St. Odile. Her 600-page work ends with a group of chants and hymns that, like Hildegard's, reflect upon divine mysteries. It is the music of Hildegard, Herrad, and other chants from the period that comprises this angelic program.

Earth, Robin Barber (robinbarber.com)

Subtitled *Sonic Journeys to Faraway Places*, independent

musician Robin Barber's 60-minute aural journey equally embraces the light and darkness of our planet. Speaker-shaking rumbles, cataclysmic musical events, towering vistas, glorious emanations of spirit, fertile valleys, and peaceful landscapes inhabit Barber's sonic universe. It's a vast and sometimes dangerous place, one that to these ears seems more truthful and less pretentious than some of the discs from Vangelis, Kitaro, and others of their ilk.

Barber, who currently resides in San Diego, was raised in the Bay Area. Describing himself as a "true musical polyglot," he plays organ, piano, hammer dulcimer, koto, recorder and synthesizer. He also holds advanced degrees in science and has worked professionally as a geologist, biologist and environmental consultant. Most important, in a time of mass denial, he seems willing to embrace the vastness and mystery of life on our fragile planet.

Barber's spaceship navigates over and through seven dimensions: Living Earth, The Wind, Ocean, Fire, Sea of Grass, Forest, and Mountain Pass. The journey is remarkably three-dimensional, with undeniable visceral and emotional impact. Indeed, if parts of this disc were used to support shamanic journeying, it would be quite a trip. ▼

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Mozart on CD

◀ page 39

the opera's most arresting moments.

The acutely perceptive baritone Simon Keenlyside, who could cloak his Count in the most luscious sounds to emerge from a male throat, eschews beautiful singing to bring out the nastiness of his unsavory character with chillingly sneers and threats. It's singularly brave vocalism that relentlessly subjugates everything to characterization.

Jacobs' Concerto Köln is, instrument for instrument, as involved as anyone onstage. While some of the tempos are disconcertingly fleet, others are as daringly drawn out, and all of them exemplify the non-didactic kind of rubato Jacobs writes about in his illuminating notes. There is tautness and spring to this performance that only a lifetime's experience with period-appropriate

playing could yield.

While I flatly don't get Harnoncourt's decision not to perform a completion of the Requiem as exemplary as Robert Levin's, his even longer time in the trenches has earned him the right to play the score of his choice. This live (late 2003) performance, with his Concentus Musicus Wien and four superbly matched singers (Christine Schäfer, Bernarda Fink, Kurt Streit, and Gerald Finley) and the Arnold Schoenberg Chor, yields a Requiem that fuses resignation and bite into a qualified promise of transcendence.

It's a performance of surpassing beauty, devoid of didacticism. Its emotional range is as remarkable as its truly sublime balance of the solo-vocal, choral, and instrumental elements. This deeply mature Requiem burrows deep inside the score with masterful artistry. Still, Mackerras' performance of the Levin completion outshines it. ▼

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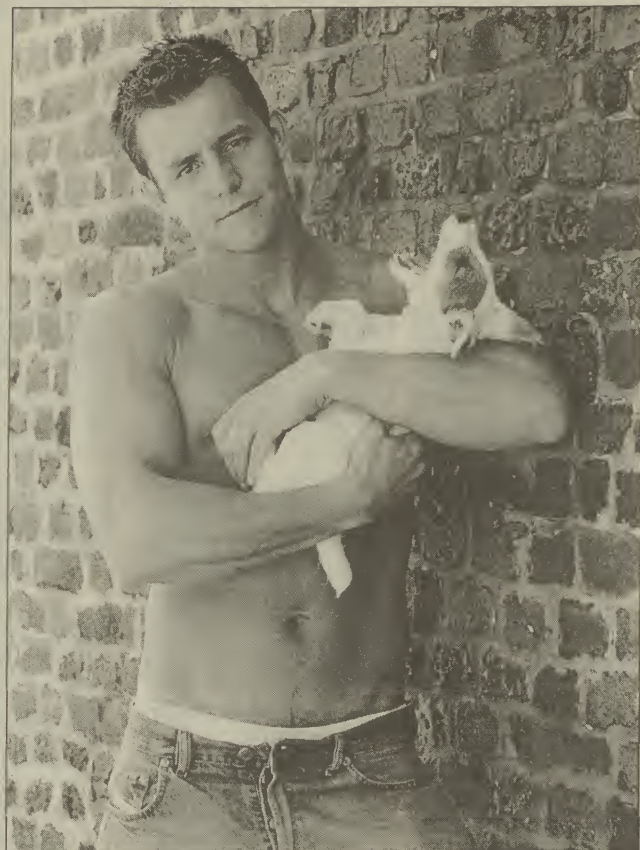
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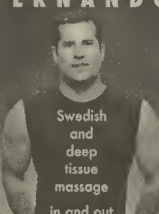
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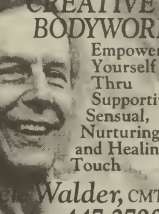


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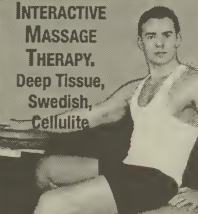


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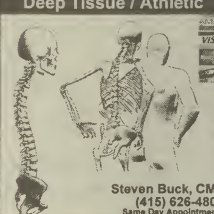
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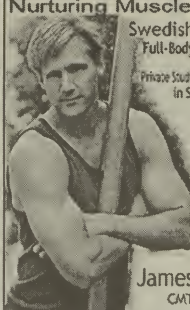
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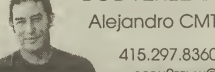
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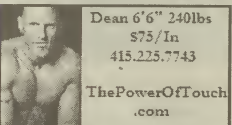


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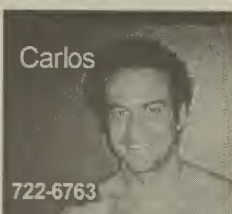
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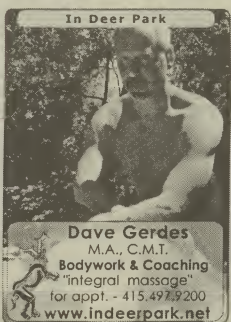
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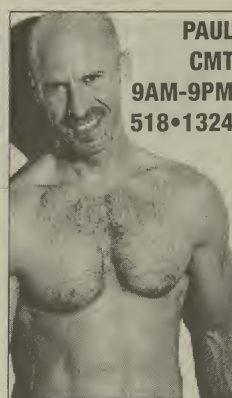
NUDE EROTIC MASSAGE

By sexy muscular guy. Massimo
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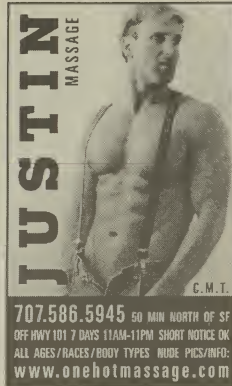
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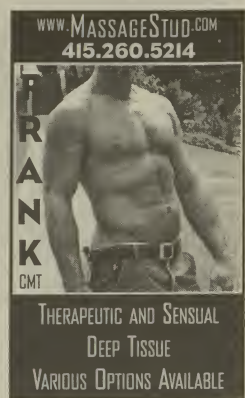
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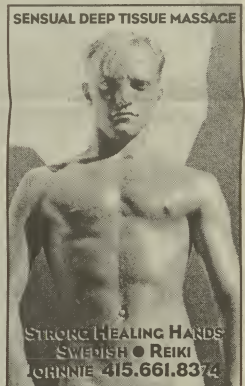
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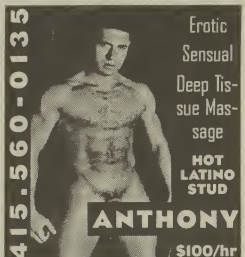
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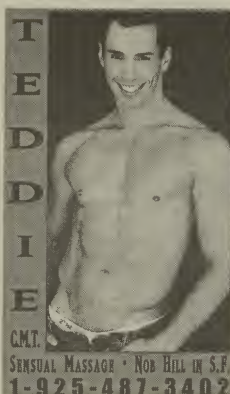
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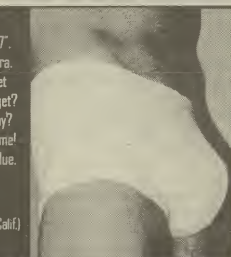
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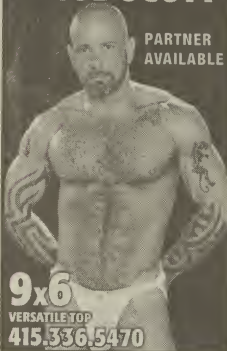
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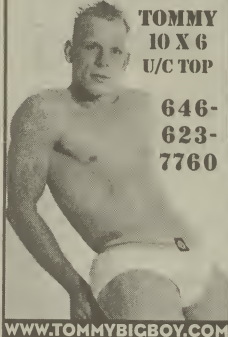
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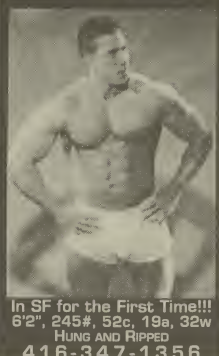
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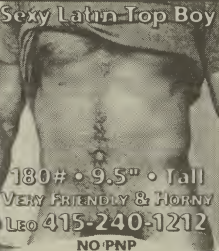
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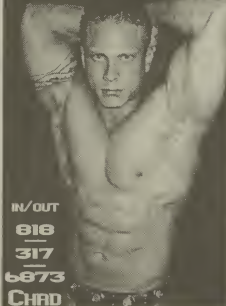
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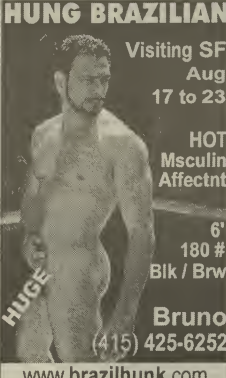
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Mr. Powerhouse Leather-Sat, Aug 21
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Are you man enough to weather the rigors of being a title holder??? E34

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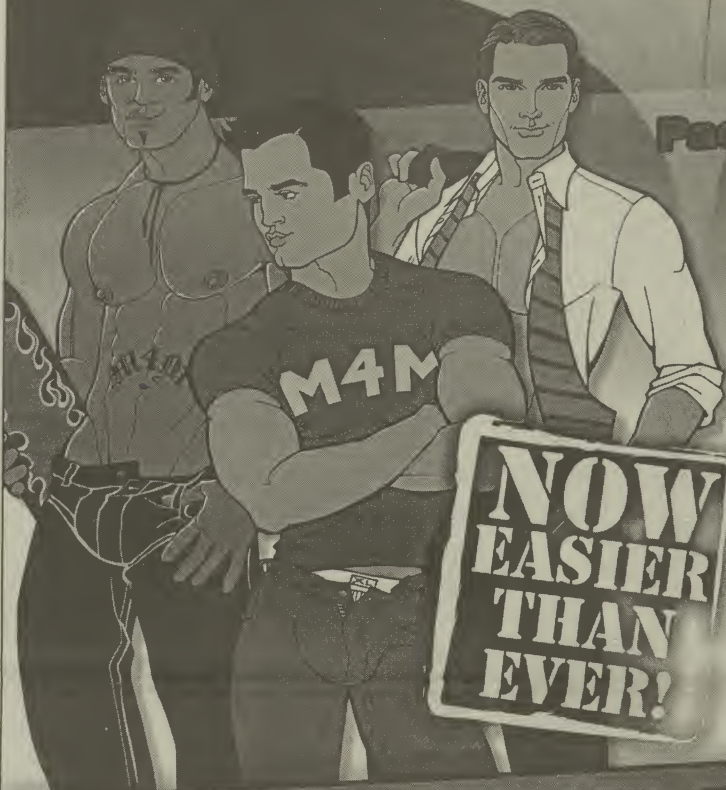
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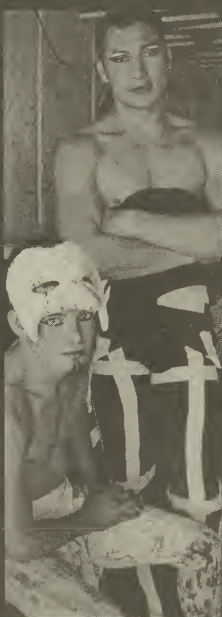
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